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PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

East Asia Cup Qualifiers

ARCHIE'S OUR KING KONG!

East Asian Cup Qualifiers									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1. Korea DPR	3	2	1	0	12	2	+10	7	
2. Australia	2	1	1	0	2	1	+3	4	
3. Hong Kong	2	1	0	1	2	2	-0	3	
4. Ch Taipei	2	0	1	1	2	7	-5	1	
5. Guam	2	0	1	2	2	8	-6	1	

Australia's hopes of qualifying for next year's East Asian Cup hang in the balance after drawing 1-1 with North Korea in the tournament's marquee match at Hong Kong Stadium on Wednesday night. The Socceroos must now attempt to better North Korea's superior goal difference in their final two matches against Guam and Taiwan and hope Hong Kong don't let the Koreans add too many more to their tally when they meet on Friday.

Melbourne Victory striker Archie Thompson, who is experiencing a renaissance in his international career of late after netting the winner in October in the 2-1 win over Iraq to keep the dream of reaching the World Cup finals in Brazil alive, put the Socceroos in front

on the fifth minute but North Korea replied with a goal from J-League star An Yong Hak in the second half.

Coach Holger Osieck made only one change in the line-up that played hosts Hong Kong, handing Central Coast Mariners goalkeeper Matt Ryan his maiden cap in place of Eugene Galekovic.

The first chance of the match came just four minutes in when Thompson got on the end of a Brett Emerton ball into the box, forcing a save from North Korea 'keeper Ri Myong Guk.

But the gloveman was beaten a minute later when a powerful header from Mark Milligan hit the post and was tapped in by Victory teammate Thompson to give Australia the early lead.

The Koreans had a strike of their own moments later with Ryan having to

make his first save at international level after a shot from striker Pak Nam Choi - one of five members of the Korean squad who was part of the World Cup side in 2010.

Veterans Emerton and Thompson combined again to create another chance in the 33rd minute, but Thompson couldn't get a clean connection and sent his header wide.

Ryan was put to work again just before the break saving two powerful strikes within a few minutes of each other from Pak Song Choi.

North Korea looked to equalise early in the second stanza with Pak Nam Choi attempting a strike.

Aziz Behich made a great run forward to set Thompson up for a goal but the Melbourne Victory striker misfired.

The chances kept coming for North Korea and it was An Yong Hak who eventually levelled in the 65th minute.

Osieck reacted by sending on teen playmaker Tomas Rogic a minute later for Richard Garcia.

He then substituted Newcastle's Adam Taggart for Thompson with less than 15 minutes to go in an effort to inject pace up front.

Rogic had a chance to put Australia in front in the dying minutes forcing a save from North Korea's Ri Myong Guk.

Emerton, who scored the winner in their opening clash against Hong Kong, could have been the saviour again moments later but sent his shot over the crossbar.

Matt McKay got in on the action with a minute left on the clock but misfired.

This Week's Line Up

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR

Aussies Abroad - Month In Review - November

By Damiian Davies

An interesting month in November with representative football the highlight. News faces to the Socceroo's squad in Korea, HAL players featuring in squad for the EAFF East Asian Cup and a great run by the U19's. Many of the Asian leagues have now been completed, whereas the European leagues are entering the busy New Year period or taking a winter break. Several loan deals affecting our younger players.

Transfers:- A series of permanent transfers across Europe along with some loan deals in England. The Aussie connection has been scaled back at Portsmouth as that club continues to deal with financial difficulties. Possibly our youngest Aussie Abroad, with Reno Piscopo joining giants Inter Milan at the start of the season.

Additions/changes to database:
Scott Baginski (28 Feb 1983) - transferred to Saraburi, Thailand
Jacob Borg (2 May 1991) - transferred to Balzan Youths, Malta
Remo Capitani (18 Mar 1994) - loan to US Agropoli 1921, Italy
Alusine Fofahah (TBA) - transferred to Manchester City, England
Curtis Good (23 Mar 1993) - loan to Bradford City FC, England
Daniel Gullo (11 Apr 1991) - transferred to FC Bayern Alzenau, Germany
Bradden Inman (10 Dec 1991) - loan to Crewe, England
Massimo Luongo (25 Sep 1992) - loan returned to Tottenham, England
Dane Milovanovic (2 Dec 1989) - transferred to Pelita Bandung Raya, Indonesia
Dimitri Petratos (10 November) - transferred to Kelantan FC, Malaysia
Reno Piscopo (27 May 1998) - transferred to Inter Milan, Italy
Aleks Vrteski (28 Sep 1988) - loan to Newcastle Jets, Australia
Dean Zammit (22 Mar 1991) - transferred to FC Bayern Alzenau, Germany

Removed from database:-
Jordan Fitzharris (Portsmouth) - unsigned, returned to Australia
Andy Higgins (Portsmouth) - unsigned, returned to Australia
Srecko Mitrovic (Deltras Sidoarjo) - unsigned, whereabouts unknown

Club Level:-
England (Premiership) - A clean sheet against Chelsea was the highlight of a month where Mark Schwarzer picked the ball out the back of the net more than he would like. Brett Holman didn't see as many minutes during November, but has now broken his scoring duck. Chris Herd has just returned from his



Richard Porta makes the move to Dubai.



Former Mariner Dylan McGowan is now at Hearts in Scotland

latest injury. Brad Jones (Liverpool) is now back on the pine after Reina's return, but he did get a few starts including one in a Europa fixture. Adam Federici is back in goal for Reading, who are conceding too many goals as they seek to pick up important Premiership points.

England (Championship) - Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace) continues to start every game in his impressive season. His side are chasing automatic promotion with Jedinak leading the charge. Scott McDonald has now scored seven goals in his eleven appearances at Middlesbrough. Certainly a welcome return to form. The Millwall defence has conceded only two goals in their past seven games. Shane Lowry is clearly deserving of some of the credit given his centre-back role this season. After a period on the sidelines with injury, Neil Kilkeny is back in the starting line-up at Bristol City.

England (League One) - Dean Bouzanis (Oldham) has continued in goal until recently seeing red. Meaning Alex Cisak was recalled from his loan at Portsmouth after a week. This has given young keeper, Liam Jacob a chance to appear on the bench. James Wesolowski is the other Aussie at Oldham, he has now made 15 starts for the season. Both Shane Cansdell-Sheriff and Bailey Wright (Preston North End) have now managed over 1000 minutes each this campaign.

Germany (Bundesliga) - Yet another great month for Robbie Kruse at Fortuna Dusseldorf. He has now added a few goals into his highlights reel for the season and is quickly gaining the attention of many. Having now started to make an impression at Mainz 05, Nikita Rukavytsya is still looking for his debut goal. Mitchell Langerak continues to bide his time on the bench at Dortmund.

Germany (2.Bundesliga) - Having returned from injury,

Mathew Leckie has now scored three goals for FSV Frankfurt during his loan spell.

Netherlands (Eredivisie) - in a somewhat rare feat over the past few seasons, all the Aussie boys (Oar, Sarota, Zullo) recently started in the same game!! Zullo had been struggling to break back into the side. Jason Davidson (Heracles) is available again after injury but is not seeing much game time.

Scotland (Premier League) - Dylan McGowan has now joined older brother Ryan in the starting line up at Hearts. Ryan continues to impress with his runs from defence. With the club remaining in difficulty, will be interesting to see if a fire sale occurs in the January transfer window. Alex Baird continues to wait patiently for 40 year old former Scotland international, Rob Douglas to make way at Dundee.

Croatia (1. HNL) - Young striker, Tomi Juric is still looking for his first goal for NK Inter Zapresic after nearly 400 minutes of game time.

Austria (Bundesliga) - A second yellow resulted in a suspension for James Holland (Austria Wien). Prior to that indiscretion, he had started every game.

Portugal (Primeira)_ - after a shaky start to the season, Caleb Patterson-Sewell still finds himself on the bench at Vitoria Setubal.

Portugal (II Divisao) - early days, but Sydney born striker Kevin Oliveira is seeing reasonable minutes in his first overseas assignment .

Turkey (Super Lig) - after a slow intergration back to the senior side, Ersan Gulum is now getting a good run of minutes at Besiktas.

Denmark (Superliga) - young Brondby striker, Brett McGrath, is starting to get some minutes

off the bench after an inconsistent season.

Greece (Football League) - Andreas Govas (Kallonis) has been the most impressive of the Aussie contingent in this league. While Chris Sullivan has scored his debut goal for Odysseas Kordeliou in League 2.

Malta (Premier League) - young defender Jacob Borg has ended his first month in the starting eleven at Balzan Youths.

Qatar (Stars League) - Mark Bresciano (Al Gharafa) is getting good minutes but not scoring with the ease he did last season. Matt Spiranovic (Al Arabi) and Sasa Ognenovski (Umm Salal) continue in the centre of defence for their respective teams.

U.A.E. (UFL) - Richard Porta (Dubai Club) continues his scoring feats, now up to eight goals in ten starts. Alex Brosque (Al Ain) has five goals in six starts. Lucas Neill has been in good enough form to warrant a nomination for AFC Football of the Year.

China (Super League) - the season is now over, and some great numbers for our Aussies. Dino Djulbic (Guizhou Renhe) - 2607 minutes, 29 starts, 5 goals
Joel Griffiths (Shanghai Shenhua) - 1323 minutes, 15 starts, 6 goals
Daniel Mullen (Dalian Aerbin) - 1304 minutes, 14 starts, 1 goal
Jonas Salley (Shanghai Shenhua) - 2483 minutes, 28 starts, 3 goals
Milan Susak (Tianjin Teda) - 1115 minutes, 12 starts, 1 goal
Rostyn Griffiths (Guangzhou R&F) - 1204 minutes, 15 starts, 1 goal

Korea (K-League) - also completed the season. Injury derailed the season for Matt Simon, Nathan Burns and at times Luke DeVere, Matt McKay and Adrian Madaschi. Eddy Bosnar (Suwon), Alex Wilkinson (Jeonbuk Hyundai) and Robbie Cornthwaite (Chunnam Dragons) were the stand out Aussie

performers.

Japan (J.League) - Josh Kennedy had an injury ravaged season whereas Jade North (Consadole Sapporo) played in the defence of a team that had been relegated with two months of the season to play.

USA (MLS) - Tim Cahill (New York Red Bulls) ended his first season in the MLS with 14 starts, 1260 minutes and 1 goal. While Andy Rose (Seattle Sounders) made 25 appearances, 1188 minutes, 1 goal and 3 CONCACAFCL starts.

India (I-League) - Sean Rooney (Salgaocar) has scored two goals in his nine appearances so far this season.

Injuries:- Rhys Williams (ankle) continues to be the biggest name missing. He is hoping to be back for the Christmas fixtures as Middlesbrough mount a challenge for automatic promotion. Josh Kennedy (back), Nathan Burns (knee) and Matt Simon (knee) will use the off season to recover. A few of our Soccerroos have minor injuries that they will hopefully shake within the next few weeks.

Club Competitions:-
Europe
(UEFA Champions League) Borussia Dortmund continue to lead Group D with Mitch Langerak warming the bench.
(UEFA Europa League) Brad Jones was in goal for Liverpool during the 1-0 away loss.
Asia
(AFC Cup) - No Aussies remain.
(Asian Champions League) - No Aussies remain.
North America
(CONCACAF Champions League) - Andy Rose (Seattle Sounders) will have to wait until March for his quarterfinal clash.

Reserves (U21's) and Youth:-
NextGen - this month saw Jordan Lyden (Aston Villa) and Brad Smith (Liverpool) start their club's fixtures.

U21's - Good form at this level saw both Bradden Inman and Curtis Good secure loan deals. Matthew Fletcher (Sheffield Wednesday) and Patrick Antelmi (Leeds) have continued their scoring form in November. By all reports, Luke Adams has been impressive in the Derby U21's.


Youth - Peter Makrillo (Stoke City) has continued his good form. Same can be said for Gethin Jones as he has been featuring for both the U18 and U21 teams at Everton. George Mells has made his debut for the Southampton U18's at the age of 15. In Germany, both Degenek (Stuttgart) and Stojcevski (Astoria Walldorf) continue to progress well.

International level :- The friendly against Korea saw four players earn their first cap for the nation. That along with the victory thanks to debut goals to Rukavytsya and Cornthwaite, marked a good night. Certainly a glimpse of the future with Holland, Oar, McGowan, Babalj and Rogic all showing great promise. Perhaps more exciting was the run enjoyed by the U19's as they sought World Cup qualification. Plenty of the "Aussies Abroad" featured with Corey Gameiro, Ryan Williams and Jackson Irvine having strong tournaments. The progress of these players and many others will be closely monitored over the next six months. Selection in the WC squad will not be easy.

Socceroo (capped) of the month - pretty hard to ignore the turn around in fortunes for Scott McDonald. Overlooked for the first few months of the season, he has come back hard. Scoring plenty of goals and helping push Middlesbrough towards promotion. The question remains, has he already used up all his Soccerroos chances??
October - Oar, September - Kruse

Under (uncapped) the radar - a second nomination in three months for Millwall defender Shane Lowry. Rock solid in a miserly defence that has gone on a 13 game unbeaten run to charge up the table. A well publicised youth career with Ireland, but yet to don the green and gold. Surely just a matter of time now.
October - Porta, September - Lowry


Young player (U21) of the month - a tough choice this month given numerous players were representing Australia. Will go with young centre back, Bailey Wright. Transfer listed in the off-season, Bailey has reacted with a wise head at finds himself now a regular at Preston North End. Has made 14 starts this season already, and having just turned 20, looks to have a bright future.
October - Bouzanis, September - Antelmi



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Rogic named NAB nominee

Central Coast Mariners player Tom Rogic has been announced as the second nominee for the 2012/13 NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.

Rogic was voted as the most outstanding U21 player for the month of November following standout performances in four matches. During this period the emerging star also received his first national team call-up and debut for the Qantas Socceroos in the team's 2-1 win over Korea Republic.

Rogic was a standout for the Mariners in the past four rounds helping the team surge up the Hyundai A-League ladder to consolidate top spot.

In Round 5, Rogic netted twice for Graham Arnold's team as they stunned Sydney FC 7-2 at Bluetongue Stadium.

A week later, the skilful midfielder made the assist for Daniel McBreen's winner at the yellow and navy defeated Wellington Phoenix in New Zealand.

And, in Hyundai A-League Round 8, Rogic fired home a late winner as Central Coast secured their first ever win over Brisbane Roar at Bluetongue Stadium.

"The past month has not only been great for myself by for the club, the Mariners are sitting top of the table and we've had a few good results so hopefully we can keep building on that," said Rogic.

"For myself, getting my first call-up to the national team was an amazing honour, and I feel very privileged and very grateful for the opportunity."

"It was great to get my debut against Korea Republic and now to be here for the East Asian Cup qualifiers is even better.



Tom Rogic is winning new admirers everywhere he plays. Some have referred to him as Australia's version of England 1966 World Cup star Martin Peters.Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



"Tuggeranong United in Canberra, that's where I grew up playing my first games on Saturday morning when I was a kid and it's nice to be able to give something back to them."

Tom Rogic is the second nominee for the annual award and is joined by Newcastle Jets midfielder Craig Goodwin and four other future nominees to be in the running for the grand prize.

The overall winner will receive a \$10,000 personal investment portfolio, a NAB Private Client Manager to assist with a range of banking and financial services, and the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.

To aid the development of future football stars NAB have generously donated a \$3,000 equipment

pack that will go to Tom's chosen junior football club, Tuggeranong United Football Club in his hometown of Canberra.

Tim Clarke, Head of NAB Enterprise Sponsorship & Events said NAB is delighted to see the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award continue to unearth future stars of the game.

"We congratulate Tom on his nomination and look forward with great anticipation to watching his development in the years to come," said Mr Clarke.

"As supporters of both the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award and the Qantas Socceroos, NAB is proud to play an important role in identifying and rewarding tomorrow's stars of football."

Glory Geo Stands Down

Perth Glory wishes to advise that Mr Paul Kelly will stand down as the club's Chief Executive effective from January 2, 2013.

Mr Kelly assumed the role of Chief Executive in January 2010 and during his reign oversaw the club through two Hyundai A-League Finals Series, and the 2012 Grand Final.

Mr Kelly says he leaves his position satisfied, having brought Perth Glory to a position of stability and sustainability for the future.

"It's three years to the day that I gave Tony Sage a commitment to assist the game I love," Mr Kelly said.

"I feel now is the right time to hand the reins over."

Mr Kelly presided over a difficult and challenging financial environment, but is pleased Perth Glory has made significant inroads towards becoming a financial viable stable model for the long term.

"The club was on its knees three years ago but Perth Glory can now look to future with real positivity.

"I'm also satisfied with the exceptional community and development program we developed," Mr



Kelly added Perth Glory Chairman and Owner Mr Tony Sage was full of praise for Mr Kelly's contribution.

"I wish to thank Paul sincerely for his service and contribution to our club," Mr Sage said.

"He has played a significant role in an important time in the history of this great football club.

"I look forward to continuing to work with Paul on the advisory board of the club to further help grow the club and the sport.

"I wish Paul the best of luck for the future and look forward to seeing him at all our home games."

Perth Glory Deputy Chairman, Mr Lui Giuliani will take the role as interim Chief Executive

"Going forward, the most difficult issue still facing the club remains our unresolved position with nib Stadium," Mr Sage added.

PETRATOS & COLE END AT SFC

Sydney FC has agreed to a request from young attacker Dimitri Petratos to mutually terminate his contract with the Sky Blues, effective immediately. Petratos approached Sydney FC last week asking to be released from his contract to pursue an opportunity overseas and the request has been granted.

Petratos played 30 Hyundai A-League matches for Sydney FC since joining the club from the youth team in 2010, scoring five goals.

Sydney FC has made a change to its Football Department structure with the position of Football Director made redundant.

As a consequence, Sydney FC Football Director Gary Cole has been made redundant, effective today.

"Sydney FC has decided to make some structural changes to the football department and the position of Football Director has been made redundant," said Sydney FC Chief Executive Officer Tony Pignata.

"On behalf of Sydney FC, I'd like to thank Gary Cole for the work he did in his time at the club and wish him the best of luck in the future."

Han Berger re-appointed as FFA National Technical Director

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has announced that Han Berger has been re-appointed as FFA National Technical Director until July, 2014.

Berger will continue on a part-year basis, working with FFA for eight months of the year, allowing him more time to spend with his family in the Netherlands during off peak periods in the Australian football calendar.

Since commencing as FFA Technical Director, Berger has been influential in updating both the coaching and player education programs. In 2009 Berger delivered the FFA National Curriculum, the first comprehensive national coach and player education blueprint for Australian football.

Berger will depart for the Nether-

lands for the holiday period on 17 December.

National Coach Education Manager, Kelly Cross, will continue in his role to implement the continued drive towards coach development, while Assistant National Technical Director Alistair Edwards will continue to focus on youth development.

FFA is also in the process of appointing an Assistant National Technical Director for Women's Football, a new position following FFA splitting the roles of the Women's National Team Head Coach and the National technical development role which will focus on female youth development and the elite pathway for girls.

Aloisi heaps praise on Heart teenage trio

Melbourne Heart Head Coach John Aloisi has heaped praise on his teenage trio that fronted for the first team against Sydney FC on Sunday, including 19-year-old debutant Jeremy Walker.

Aloisi said the inclusion of two National Youth League players and two contracted senior players under the age of 20 in yesterday's starting line-up was testament to the Club's faith in its youth development policy.

Aloisi has shown faith in his younger charges throughout this season, handing debuts to Benjamin Garuccio (pictured), Sam Mitchinson and David Vrankovic, before Walker's debut yesterday. Without regular full backs Aziz Behich and Michael Marrone, who are away on Qantas Socceroos duties, Walker was handed his Hyundai A-League debut and helped to contain Sydney FC's Yairo Yau in yesterday's 0-0 draw at Allianz Stadium.

Fellow National Youth League player, 20-year-old Mitchinson also made his second start since his first appearance on November 2, when he debuted for Heart in the Club's round five clash against Western Sydney Wanderers at Parramatta Stadium.

Qantas Young Socceroo Garuccio, 17, also started the match, while Aloisi praised Vrankovic who slotted into right back for Walker in the closing stages of the match. Vrankovic debuted for Heart in the season opener on October 5 against Melbourne Victory.

"It was very promising to see

Jeremy out there and I was really pleased with his performance," Aloisi said.

"Jeremy has been in our Youth team since our inaugural season and he is one of the first signings I made so it has been very promising to see his progress."

Walker joined Heart in 2011 after a stint with Oakleigh Cannons, and was a direct product of the Tasmanian Institute of Sport system – the first Tasmanian-produced player to feature in the Hyundai A-League.

Aloisi was pleased with Walker's contribution, including a number of highlights where he dispossessed Sydney's marquee man Alessandro Del Piero and delivered a dangerous cross to David Williams, whose shot was deflected for a corner in the second half.

"He looked like he enjoyed it and despite being throw into that situation, he didn't show any nerves, even coming up against Del Piero," Aloisi said.

"It was also great to see Ben skipping past Fabio on a number of occasions," Aloisi said.

"For a 17-year-old, he's pretty amazing and he is only going to get better.

"Sam and David were also fantastic and they it just goes to show the Club is developing some excellent young talent."

"Some of the older players, such as Clint Bolton, have been great role models and have guided the players during training and during the match and helping them grow in confidence."



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DEL PIERO TO
MISS MATCH
WITH HAMSTRING
STRAIN

Sydney FC marquee striker Alessandro Del Piero has been ruled out of Sunday's clash with Wellington Phoenix due to a hamstring injury.

Scans have shown that Del Piero has suffered a low grade strain to his hamstring during the 0-0 draw with Melbourne Heart on Sunday but on a positive note the scan cleared the Italian of any tear in the hamstring.

"Scans have shown that Alessandro has suffered a strained hamstring so he will not be travelling to Wellington for Sunday's game," said Sky Blues coach Frank Farina.

"It's a long flight and with time differences it's not an option for him to play. The positive news is that there is no tear but we will re-evaluate how the injury has progressed and what we do going forward next week when we get back in to training."

Sydney FC will train tomorrow for the last time before departing for Wellington on Saturday morning ahead of Sunday afternoon's vital round 10 clash with the Phoenix at Westpac Stadium.

SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	9	6	2	1	17	8	9	20
2 Adelaide United	9	6	1	2	13	7	6	19
3 Melbourne Victory	9	5	1	3	15	16	-1	16
4 Newcastle Jets	9	4	1	4	14	17	-3	13
5 Wellington Phoenix	9	3	3	3	12	10	2	12
6 Perth Glory	9	3	2	4	9	9	0	11
7 Brisbane Roar	9	3	1	5	13	12	1	10
8 West Sydney Wanderers	9	3	1	5	5	8	-3	10
9 Melbourne Heart	9	2	3	4	11	12	-1	9
10 Sydney FC	9	2	1	6	12	22	-10	7

THIS WEEK	ROUND 10	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
Fri Dec 07		Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:00pm	7:30pm
Sat Dec 08		Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory	AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sat Dec 08		Newcastle Jets v Central Coast Mariners	Hunter Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Sun Dec 09		Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
Sun Dec 09		West Sydney Wanderers v Brisbane Roar	Parramatta Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

NEXT WEEK	ROUND 11	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
Fri Dec 14		Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Heart	Bluetongue Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
Fri Dec 14		Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets	nib Stadium	6:45pm	9:45pm
Sat Dec 15		Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar	AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sat Dec 15		Sydney FC v West Sydney Wanderers	Allianz Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Sun Dec 16		Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm	5:00pm

ROUND 09 RESULTS

Sydney FC 0
Melbourne Heart 0
Crowd: 12,425
Venue: Allianz Stadium

Melbourne Victory 1
(Rojas)
Perth Glory 0
Crowd: 17,676 at AAMI Park

Brisbane Roar 1
(Berisha 41p)
Newcastle Jets 0
Crowd: 12,546 @Suncorp Stadium

Wellington Phoenix 1
(Brockie 21')
Western Sydney Wanderers 0
Crowd: 5500 at Westpac Stadium

Central Coast Mariners 2
(Rose 45, Montgomery 76)
Adelaide United 1 (Djite 17)
Crowd: 6885 at Bluetongue Stadium

TOP GOAL SCORERS

7 - Daniel McBREEN (Mariners)
6 - Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoenix)
5 - Emile HESKEY (Jets)
Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)
Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide U)
Besart BERISHA (Roar)
Marco ROJAS (Victory)
4- Jeronimo Neumann (AUGC)
Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)
3 - Richard Garcia (Heart)
Stein HUYSEGEMS (Phoenix)



Phoenix's Jeremy Brockie has found his shooting boots of late and has surged up the charts.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 09

Compiled by Andrew Bishara



GK: Michael Theo (Brisbane Roar)
Kept the Champions a clean sheet, producing some quality saves to deny the Jets. Withheld early pressure and held the lead after the Roar went ahead.

CB: Ben Sigmund (Wellington Phoenix)
The Kiwi was a rock in the last line of defence for the Phoenix, containing the Wanderers' attacks to a minimal. Lucky though not to give away a spot kick, but still a solid performance.

CB: Zac Anderson (Central Coast)
Held his own position in replacing big man Patrick Zwaanswijk. A consistent performer, he has been a revelation for the Central Coast.

CB: Josh Rose (Central Coast)
The defender had the benefit of not facing Marcos Rojas this week and duly delivered with a brilliant performance. Provided an outlet for his team on the left wing, as well as scoring a peach of a goal.

RM: Marco Rojas (Melbourne Victory)
The young New Zealanders keeps his place in the TOTW, with another superb performance. He was the bright spark for a Victory that was surprisingly lacking any electricity. Scored the winner to seal the points.

CM: Gui Finkler (Melbourne Victory)
The Brazilian is seamlessly fitting into Postecoglou's structure and style. He has become the conductor in midfield, creating play whenever he can, unlocking defences and opening up games.

CM: Erik Paartalu (Brisbane Roar)
Was the lifeblood of the Roar in an ill-tempered match. Took the criticism from his manager on the chin and produced a well-rounded display.

CM: Nick Montgomery (Central Coast)
The British born export was the catalyst for Central Coast's win over Adelaide. He delivered when it mattered, hammering home the winner with only 14 minutes left on the clock. Minutes after his side spurred a host of chances.

LM: Jeremy Brockie (Wellington Phoenix)
Scored the only goal of the game, and while it was helped along with the wind, was a constant menace throughout the game for West Sydney.

ST: Bruce Djite (Adelaide)
Hasn't played as much for the Reds as he would of have liked, but can still produce the goods when needed. He held up the front line well and showed his skills, with a trademark, thunderous strike.

ST: Besart Berisha (Brisbane)
A much-maligned figure throughout the A-League, but there is no doubting the Albanian's talent. Lively throughout the Roar's scrappy 1-0 win over Newcastle, Berisha coolly dispatched the penalty that brought the win.

Coach: Graham Arnold
Even without the likes of Matt Ryan and Tom Rogic, Central Coast were the dominant in the top of the table clash with Adelaide. Credit is due to Arnold, reshuffling his line-up and still ending up with the points to ensure the win. They could of destroyed Adelaide by way more, had they put their chances away. But in the end, they got the deserved three points – and it's all thanks to Arnold.

Star Man

Marco Rojas
CC Mariners



The Kiwi international has been a revelation this season, producing quality display after quality display. His goal was a cracker and here's to hoping the best is yet to come.

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Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd
PO Box 142 Port Melb VIC 3207
Ph: 03 9551 7538

Distribution:
All Day Distribution
Tel: (03) 9482 1145

Advertising: 03 9551 7538
Email: news@goalweekly.com
Letters: mailbag@goalweekly.com
Web: www.goalweekly.com

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Melbourne Victory



1

Perth Glory



0

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 1

(Marco Rojas 58')

Perth Glory 0

Venue: AAMI Park

Referee: Jarred Gillett

Attendance: 17,676

Melbourne Victory: 39. Nathan Coe, 3. Adama Traore, 4. Petar Franjic, 7. Gui Finkler (17. Jimmy Jeggo 90 + 1'), 8. Jonathan Bru (6. Leigh Broxham 74'), 9. Marcos Flores, 11. Marco Rojas, 13. Diogo Ferreira, 14. Billy Celeski, 23. Adrian Leijer, 26. Andrew Nabbout (16. Theo Markelis 74')

Unused substitutes: 1. Tando Velaphi

Yellow cards: Jonathan Bru 22'
Red cards: Nil

Perth Glory: 1. Danny Vukovic, 3. Bas van den Brink, 4. Billy Mehmet, 5. Steve Pantelidis, 6. Nick Ward (15. Brandon O'Neill 66'), 8. Dean Heffernan 9. Shane Smeltz, 11. Adrian Zahra (17. Chris Harold 61'), 13. Travis Dodd, 14. Steven McGarry, 19. Joshua Risdon

Unused substitutes: 30 Lewis Italiano, 18. Jesse Makarounas

Yellow cards: Nick Ward 17', Joshua Risdon 19', Dean Heffernan 59'
Red cards: Nil

Super Rojas Finish Takes All The Glory

By Roy Hay

In a good quality game, Melbourne Victory did just enough to take all three points with a one-nil win over Perth Glory at AAMI Park on Friday night.

Both teams were short of some key players. Jacob Burns, Glory's skipper, and Sam Gallagher of Victory were suspended, while Scott Jamieson and Michael Thwaite for Perth and Archie Thompson and Mark Milligan for Victory were on international duty.

Liam Miller was injured in warm up and replaced by Adrian Zahra with Jesse Makarounas coming on to the bench. It was good to see Zahra back in action and he lasted a full hour before being replaced, making some good runs down the flank and carrying out his defensive duties effectively.

Victory created the best openings in the first half but squandered them, while Glory's aerial attack was the main threat to the home defence, particularly from free kicks, of which there were many in the early part of the half. Victory keeper Nathan Coe was outjumped by Nick Ward and was reluctant to leave his line on a couple of occasions. Perth's passing was crisp and they cut through the Victory midfield regularly. Andrew Nabbout after an enterprising opening spell, found a couple of lung bursting runs left him gasping for breath and slow to recover.

The match ebbed and flowed, though both sides made mistakes with the final pass and so the first half ended goalless. Probably Perth had just had the best of it till then, but Victory came out firing in the second half.

The only goal came in the 58th minute and it was worthy of winning this close game. Billy Ce-



A precise and exquisite finish by Kiwi international Marco Rojas has the Victory faithful up on their feet.

Photo: DANIEL FLIS

leski in a forward position slotted the ball through to Gui Finkler. The Brazilian cleverly released Marco Rojas and the young winger lifted his shot over Daniel Vukovic's despairing fingers and into the far corner.

Nathan Coe, who had been hesitant in the first half, had to be at his absolute best to save a scorching header by Shane Smeltz after 76 minutes. That probably saved the points for Victory, though

substitute Theo Markelis had an awful miss from almost under the bar after a cross from Rojas set him up a minute later. Markelis made a good break in the 89th minute but his cross was too close to Vukovic who saved comfortably.

Ange Postecoglou was not happy with the first half, feeling that the Victory players were easing themselves into the game, rather than taking it by the scruff of the

neck from the start. The second half, he admitted, was much better and the goal was deserved. 'We played half an hour of good football and got our reward for it,' was how he summed up the match. Once again he felt that the supporters were great and that the Victory players should have used the energy they created more than they did.

Ian Ferguson said that the Glory played well in patches and no one

could be faulted for the effort they put in. It took a first class save to deny Smeltz, but that Perth was scraping the bottom of the barrel in terms of regular first team players, so the absence of Miller, Burns, Jamieson and Thwaite was significant. However, the young substitutes, especially Chris Harold, showed real promise in their late spells on the field.



Victory's Billy Celeski is out for the count and Perth Glory Shane Smeltz gets off scott free. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Andrew Nabbout goes oh so close but just narrowly directs his effort only inches wide of the post. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Saturday, December 15
Kick-off 5:30pm
AAMI Park

CC Mariners



2

Adelaide United



1

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 2 (Rose 45, Montgomery 76')
Adelaide United 1 (Djite 17')
 Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
 Referee: Alan Milliner
 Crowd: 6,885

Central Coast Mariners: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 2. Daniel McBreen (6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 5. Zachary Anderson, 7. John Hutchinson (c), 9. Bernie Ibini (19. Mitchell Duke 58'), 11. Oliver Bozanic (8. Adriano Pellegrino 72'), 14. Michael McGlinchey, 16. Trent Sainsbury, 18. Nick Montgomery

Substitutes not used: 30. David Bradasevic (Gk)

Yellow cards: Hutchinson, Bojic, Montgomery, McBreen
 Red cards: Nil

Adelaide United: 20. Paul Izzo (Gk), 2. Osama Malik, 3. Nigel Boogaard, 5. Iain Fyfe (17. Iain Ramsay 85'), 6. Cassio (c), 7. Zanon Caravella (9. Serginho van Dijk 62'), 11. Bruce Djite (21. Jeronimo Neumann 78'), 14. Cameron Watson, 18. Fabian Barbiero, 22. Fabio Ferreira, 23. Evan Kostopoulos

Substitutes not used: 30. John Hall (Gk)

Yellow cards: Nil
 Red cards: Nil

By Adrian Deans

In my preview to this game, I was expecting both Tom Rogic and Osama Malik would make the Socceroos squad. As it turned out, Malik was not included which, while disappointing for the player, was a huge boost for the Reds. Adelaide were still without Vidosic and Carrusca, and of course both teams were without their usual keepers.

So, the main subtext to this game was how the two teams would adapt to the absent stars. Michael McGlinchey was given the job of playing in Rogic's usual spot and was really impressive. He set up numerous chances with both diagonal balls for runners and dinks over the top.

But after several good chances, the first goal came out of the blue when the usually limpet-like Mariners defence hung off Bruce Djite, and his turn and shot from outside the box showed fantastic skill.

After that the Reds took control for a while and may have gone further ahead in the 37th minute when Ferreira's great run and cross for Djite was nicked of the striker's boot by Pedj Bojic. Straight afterwards Bojic put Ibini away down the right but he seemed to panic when crossing and picked out the only Reds defender, leaving Hutchinson unmarked and frustrated in front of goal.

Amini made amends however, shortly after, by fighting to win the ball for Daniel McBreen whose switch to Josh Rose produced a thunderous shot which Paul Izzo, the 17 year old understudy for Galekovic, probably should have saved.

The first half was played in sweltering and humid conditions and it really is a credit to the players that they put on such an entertaining show. The second half was always going to be a much more open affair as players wilted and the use of the bench by the opposing grandmasters would be critical to the outcome.

One of the first to wilt was Bernie Ibini who missed two easy chances in less than a minute. First he got tangled up with Rose after Sainsbury's excellent counter-attacking



Bluetongue Stadium is in raptures after Nick Montgomery scored the winner, and helped the Mariners replace Adelaide United at the top of the A-League standings. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

run, then he blazed over from 8 metres with the keeper on the ground and no-one near him. There's no denying Ibini is a huge talent, and still only very young, but strikers must have cool heads to be effective. He remains a work in progress.

It was the player who came on for Ibini who changed the game. Mitchell Duke entered the fray after 58 minutes and immediately signalled his intent – running at the tiring Adelaide defence and causing havoc. McBreen put him away down the left in the 75th minute and his Matt Simon-like fight for the ball saw it drop

for Nick Montgomery who showed excellent technique to get his knee over a high bouncing ball and lash it home from the edge of the box.

That was Montgomery's first goal for the Mariners and very much deserved. He has been a really important part of the Mariners new shape this season – quietly playing a screening role alongside Hutchinson and distributing early and with good vision.

The Reds brought on Van Dyke and Iain Ramsay, and Jeronimo Neumann quite late. All to no avail. If anything, it was the Mariners who blew several last gasp chances to score. They've

been watching too many Arsenal games – too many clever passes in the box when what they really need is for someone to take responsibility and have a shot.

Patrick Zwaanswijk, returning from suspension, got a few minutes at the end but Arnold will be faced with a tough decision next week. Zac Anderson has done well in Zwaanswijk's absence (although should have been closer to Djite for the Adelaide goal).

It was a really open and entertaining game considering the tough conditions (and absences). At this point, I see only Melbourne Victory

having the goods to unsettle either of these teams throughout the rest of the season.

Oh, and Mariners fans? It might have been pushing 40 degrees and threatening a thunder storm, but less than 7000 to see a top of the table clash is just not good enough. The players deserve better.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. Ebook also available.



Want some ketchup with your football? Daniel McBreen does his best to evade his markers amidst a truly Australian football setting. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



Adelaide United keeper Paul Izzo can only grasp at thin air as Joshua Rose's belter nearly breaks the back of the Mariners' net. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

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Brisbane Roar



1

Newcastle Jets



0

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 1 (Besart Berisha 41' (pen))
Newcastle Jets 0
 Saturday, 1 December 2012
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
 Referee: Brenton Hayward
 Crowd: 12,546

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (GK), 3. Shane Stefanutto (C), 4. Matt Jurman, 6. Erik Paartalu, 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Muroccca, 10. Henrique (21. James Meyer 76'), 11. Ben Halloran (16. Do Dong-Hyun 85'), 15. James Donachie, 19. Jack Hingert (13. Yuji Takahashi 90'), 22. Thomas Broich
 Substitutes Not Used: 20. Matt Acton (GK)
 Yellow Cards: Nil
 Red Cards: Thomas Broich 45'

Newcastle Jets: 2. Scott Neville, 4. Josh Mitchell, 5. Dominik Ritter, 7. James Brown (15. Craig Goodwin 66'), 8. Ruben Zadkovich, 9. Emile Heskey, 10. Bernardo Ribiero (12. Joshua Brillante 46'), 11. Connor Chapman, 16. Jobe Wheelhouse (C) (17. James Virgili 71'), 23. Ryan Griffiths, 30. Matthew Nash (Gk)
 Substitutes Not Used: 30. Jack Duncan (GK)
 Yellow Cards: Scott Neville 19', Ruben Zadkovich 30', Josh Mitchell 36', 45', Connor Chapman 44', Ryan Griffiths 49', Dominik Ritter 90'+3
 Red Cards: Josh Mitchell 45'

Roar On Winners List After Cagey Suncorp Affair

By Jarrod Ellis

Brisbane Roar's 2012-13 A-League season sputtered back into life on Saturday night as they defeated Newcastle Jets 1-0.

A solitary goal from Besart Berisha was enough to secure the win, the first in four games for the Roar in a match that was tarnished by the incorrect decision to red card Thomas Broich just before half-time.

Newcastle were quick out of the blocks, no doubt trying to avoid the kind of opening against Melbourne Heart that left them 2-0 down after only a matter of minutes.

Emile Heskey almost got the Jets off to a fantastic start, only just failing to connect with a Ryan Griffiths free kick in the third minute.

Brisbane were again lucky to not go behind in the 14th minute. James Brown took control of a through ball from Bernardo Ribiero on the edge of the area and unleashed a low shot that Michael Theo did well to turn away. The former-Gold Coast United youngster had the time and space to move closer to goal and in hindsight should have done better.

With Mitch Nichols left out of the match day squad Brisbane were looking repeatedly to find Thomas Broich in an effort to find the creativity in the final third that has been absent so far this season. The German, playing more centrally appeared at ease with his role but couldn't find much space amongst the Newcastle backline.

Erik Paartalu had Brisbane's real chance in the 26th minute, hitting a long range shot that skidded wide of the post after a typical period of Brisbane Roar possession.

Brisbane's efforts were finally rewarded in the 41st minute, patient play from the Roar outside the Newcastle penalty area lead to a clumsy challenge from Josh Mitchell on Jack Hingert, the Brisbane right-back brought to ground in a clear



The Roar get that winning feeling again after Besart Berisha converts from the spot. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

	Match Stats	
3	Saves	3
4	Attempts on target	3
8	Attempts off target	5
52%	Possession	48%
2	Corners	1
2	Offsides	1
13	Fouls committed	10

penalty. It came as no surprise that it was Besart Berisha whom stepped up to the spot and the fiery Albanian striker made no mistakes, placing his shot low and to the right of Matthew Nash.

Just as the half looked to fizzle out the match erupted with controversy as play was stopped for an incident between Josh Mitchell and Thomas Broich. Mitchell went down under a bump from Broich before rising to his feet and pushing the Brisbane playmaker to the ground. From there players from both sides came rushing in and Mitchell was on the deck once

again as Paartalu entered the altercation with a shove.

Match referee Brenton Hayward wasted little time, awarding Mitchell his second yellow card of the match and then showing Broich a direct red. Brisbane players and staff were left incensed at the German's dismissal, whilst Paartalu was fortunate to escape punishment.

Despite the extra space on the pitch in the second forty-five neither side managed to look all that threatening going forward. That no doubt had a lot to do with the absence of the dismissed Broich and the substituted Ribiero, both players so often the

creative force for their side.

Craig Goodwin was introduced for James Brown with 25 minutes to play, the youngster having provided spark off the bench in previous weeks it would be needed once again if Newcastle were to take something away from the match.

Brisbane should have been 2-0 up in the 69th minute but for a weak shot from Henrique. A burst into the box and pass from Jack Hingert presented Henrique with a simple opportunity from barely outside the six-yard box, but the Brazilian was too casual and his soft shot was too close to a diving Nash.

1-0 was how it finished and Brisbane's Rado Vidosic was much more complimentary of his team's performance than he was the week before.

"Unfortunately, one half it was 11 v 11 and it was a very good game until two players were sent off", he said.

"After that, it was a bit cagey and no one really wanted to make any mistakes so unfortunately the second half wasn't maybe as good as the first half.

"But I was proud of the boys and the way they worked for the entire game."



Ref Brenton Haywood dishes out the red card to Thomas Broich. The card was later rescinded and the German is free to play this week. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Roar's Ben Halloran gets airborne after Newcastle's Scott neville slides in. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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Goal! Weekly - Friday 6th December 2012

Sydney FC

0



SYDNEY FC

Melbourne Heart

MELBOURNE HEART



0

Match Details

Sydney FC 0
Melbourne Heart 0
Allianz Stadium
Referee: Strebre Delovski
Crowd: 12 425

Sydney FC: 20. Vedran Janjetovic, 3. Fabio, 4. Pascal Bosschaart, 8. Adam Griffiths, 10. Alessandro Del Piero (12. Blake Powell '67), 15. Terry Mcflynn (C), 16. Joel Chianese, 21. Yairo Yau, 22. Ali Abbas, 23. Rhyan Grant, 26. Haji Gligor (6. Jason Culina '65).
Sub Not Used: 1. Ivan Necevski, 5. Nathan Sherlock.
Yellow Cards: Jason Culina 88.

Melbourne Heart: 1. Clint Bolton, 4. Simon Colosimo, 5. Fred, 6. Patrick GerhArdt, 8. Matt Thompson (9. Dylan Macallister), 10. Josip Tadic, 15. David Williams, 17. Jason Hoffman, 19. Ben Garuccio (22. Nicholas Kalmer), 24. Samuel Mitchinson, 25. Jeremy Walker (18. David Vrankovic).
Sub Not Used: 20. Andrew Redmayne
Yellow Cards: Jason Hoffman 33, Jeremy Walker 47, Matt Thompson 65

Points Shared As Farina Observes

By Magnus Lewington

Sydney FC display some encouraging signs, however fail to overcome Heart's defence in a dour encounter at Allianz on Sunday. Though Sydney will feel that they were the better of the two sides going forward, the 0-0 result accurately reflects the pace and flow of the game.

Watching from the stands in his first game since being named coach of the Sky Blues, Frank Farina will draw many positives from the game. Sydney were significantly more energetic compared with their more recent performances, and primarily through Alessandro Del Piero and Yairo Yau provided the most effective attacking football of the game.

The back four and central midfield bossed much of the match, and though possession was fairly even over the course of the 90 minutes, Sydney will feel they controlled larger periods in more aggressive parts of the pitch. While there were sporadic opportunities for Heart, primarily down the left side through David Williams and captain Fred, Melbourne failed to effectively build pressure and control the flow of the game.

Farina will be happy about the energy and aggression from his team, and has already stated his desire to add to Sydney's ranks when the transfer window opens to give the team more attacking options. In his final post-match press conference as interim coach, Steve Corica specifically praised Sydney's defensive effort in keeping a clean sheet; especially considering the 16 goals conceded in the four games prior to this.

Vedran Janjetovic was given his debut in goals ahead of Ivan Necevski, with youngsters Chianese and Haji Gligor also handed starts. Janjetovic was assured in goals and his performance will no doubt encourage Farina to keep him in his first team plans. Particularly his save



Melbourne Heart's Clint Bolton keeps Sydney FC at bay and notches a clean sheet against his former club. Photo: ALI ERHAN

from Fred's header in the 57th minute demonstrated quick reactions and good instincts from the debutant. Sydney's back four seemed assured, and Rhyan Grant particularly demonstrated his credentials in repeatedly winning possession and overpowering Heart midfield and forwards.

Del Piero provided most of the attacking threat for Sydney, bursting through midfield and both shooting and feeding the majority of Sydney's movement. Yairo Yau was also threatening down the left wing, speeding past the Heart's back four on several occasions. He flashed the ball over Clint Bolton's bar in

the 15th minute after such a break, one of Sydney's best opportunities in the game. Chianese displayed good movement and successfully linked up with build-up play out of the midfield, however failed convert opportunities into goals. He came particularly close in the 67th minute when Bolton's fumble of a Del Piero free kick almost dropped for a tap-in, only to be cleared from underneath his toes by the Heart defence.

Overall Sydney will be the happier of the two sides in terms of performance, however as John Aloisi stated in the press conference after the game, Melbourne will be content with a point considering the range

of injuries impacting their first 11.

With four teenagers and two debutants in the team, the Heart produced a decent performance. Other talking points include the first team return of Jason Culina, brought on in the 61st minute for Haji Gligor.

Though clearly still finding his feet after almost two years out of the game, Culina's return is another positive to draw out of the encounter. His continued presence in FC's midfield will help lend support to emerging youth players and give Farina a broader base of players to work from, shoring up the midfield as he seeks to bring in talent in both attacking and defensive spheres of

the pitch.

Though the game provided an interesting spectacle, it is more important with regard to the future of FC as a club and whether or not Farina can make an impact on the style and substance of the Sky Blues performances. Signs are encouraging, however the flow of their attacking play and ability to take the chances given will need to improve to gain the victories needed to push them up the table and into the top 6. Time will tell whether or not Farina can make the most of the talent imported over the summer, or if Sydney will remain the most visibly under-achieving squad in the league.



Italian stallion Alessandro Del Piero holds his hamstring and SFC's worst nightmare potentially comes alive. Photo: ALI ERHAN



New Sydney FC coach Frank Farina gets acquainted with members of the Sky Blue Army. Photo: ALI ERHAN

Match Stats		
2	Saves	3
3	Attempts on target	2
9	Attempts off target	5
50%	Possession	50%
4	Corners	2
1	Offsides	0
11	Fouls committed	13

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Roar fans are a relieved bunch to get back on the winner's list. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Adelaide United fans fly the flag on their travels to the Central Coast. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



Read all about it! Friendly Go! Weekly vendors, Ebony and Romy, display the Marcos Rojas souvenir poster to fans, as they make their way into AAMI Park for the big clash between Victory versus Glory last Friday night. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Mariners fans paint the town yellow and blue. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS



Wanderers keeper Ante Covic still can't believe his mishap of a goal in windy Wellington. Photo: DANIEL PANTER



This little lady is the luckiest mascot in the land as Alessandro Del Piero takes to the field. Photo: ALI ERHAN



Roar fans stick with their team through thick and thin. PHOTO: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Wellington Phoenix take to the field before the clash with Wanderers. Photo: DANIEL PANTER



Melbourne Victory fans create a whirlpool on the terraces. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Adelaide Utd Line Up

2.Osama Malik
3.Nigel Boogaard
5.Iain Fyfe
6.Cassio (c)
7.Zenon Caravella
8.Marcelo Carrusca
9.Sergio van Dijk
10.Dario Vidosic
11.Bruce Djite
14.Cameron Watson
17.Iain Ramsay
18.Fabian Barbiero
20.Paul Izzo (gk)
21.Jeronimo Neumann
22.Fabio Ferreira
23.Evan Kostopoulos
30.John Hall (gk)
*Two to be omitted

Ins: 8. Marcelo Carrusca (returns from injury), 10. Dario Vidosic (returns from injury)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 1. Eugene Galekovic (gk) (International duty – Qantas Socceroos), 4. Jon McKain (leg – under review), 19. Jake Barker-Daish (groin – 1 week)

Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory

By Matthew McNamara

Adelaide United will host a rejuvenated Melbourne Victory outfit on Friday evening in what is sure to be a classic battle between the two fierce rivals.

Victory defeated United 2-1 earlier in the season but Adelaide are undefeated all season at home and will be looking to bounce back after letting a 1-0 lead slip against the now top of the table Central Coast Mariners last week, whilst Ange Postecoglou's Victory team will be seeking to extend their purple patch having won 4 of their last 5. If the Victory do manage to remain unbeaten, it will be the first time in over a year they have gone 6 games without a loss.

Both sides will be without key players, as Reds captain Eugene Galekovic and the influential Victory duo of Archie Thompson and Mark Milligan are all away on international duty with the Socceroos. Victory also lost Adama Traore from the squad as he withdraw late on Thursday morning. Just who will fill the void for Victory at left back is unknown, with Traore previously playing every minute of the Victory's 9

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #REDSvMV

The Odds

AUFC 2.37
Draw 3.40
Victory 3.10



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league games this season.

The Reds will have to be on the lookout for Victory youngster Marco Rojas, who after an ordinary first season in Melbourne, put in another Man of the Match performance last weekend against Perth Glory and scored with a classy finish from just inside the area. Rojas scored when these sides met at Etihad Stadium earlier in the year and he certainly seems to be enjoying life under Postecoglou and will definitely be a handful for the Adelaide back four.

But the Victory defence will have their work cut out against one of the best strike forces in the league as Dario Vidosic and Jeronimo Neumann will be seeking to continue their goal scoring best form. Up until last weeks loss to the Central Coast, either Vidosic or Neumann has scored in every round of the Hyundai A-League this season, and the two seemed to have formed an excellent partnership in the attacking third for United. Neumann is enjoying his first stint in the A-League and already has 4 goals to his

name this season whilst Vidosic has netted 5 times and already garnished 3 assists.

These two teams are fierce rivals and with their position on the ladder closer than ever this shapes to be an enthralling contest. Victory has dominated against Adelaide in recent years, but John Kosmina's men have been strong all season and remain undefeated so far this year at Hindmarsh Stadium.

**Kiss of Death
Adelaide 1-1 Victory**



Victory Line Up

1. Tando Velaphi (GK)
3. Adama Traore
4. Petar Franjic
6. Leigh Broxham
7. Gui Finkler
8. Jonathan BRU
9. Marcos Flores
11. Marco Rojas
13. Diogo Ferreira
14. Billy Celeski
15. Sam Gallagher
17. Jimmy Jeggo
19. Isaka Cernak
21. Spase Dilevski
23. Adrian Leijer (c)
26. Andrew Nabbout
39. Nathan Coe (GK)
*Two to be omitted

Ins: 15. Sam Gallagher (returns from suspension), 21. Spase Dilevski (returns from injury), 19. Isaka Cernak (promoted)

Outs: 16. Theo Markelis (suspended)

Unavailable: 16. Theo Markelis (suspended), 10. Archie Thompson (International duty – Qantas Socceroos), 5. Mark Milligan (International duty – Qantas Socceroos)

MELBOURNE HEART



Heart Line Up

1. Clint Bolton (GK)
4. Simon Colosimo
5. Fred
6. Patrick Gerhardt
8. Matthew Thompson
9. Dylan Macallister
10. Josip Tadic
14. GolGol Mebrahtu
15. David Williams
17. Jason Hoffman
18. David Vrankovic
20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
21. Steven Gray
22. Nick Kalmar
24. Sam Mitchinson
25. Jeremy Walker,
[No. TBC] Stefan Mauk
*Three to be omitted

Ins: Stefan Mauk (promoted – National Youth League)

Outs: 19. Ben Garuccio (ankle – 3-4 weeks) 23. Mate Dugandzic (broken foot 8-12 weeks)

Unavailable: 13. Jonatan Germano, 2. Michael Marrone (international duty – Qantas Socceroos), 11. Richard Garcia (international duty – Qantas Socceroos), 16. Aziz Behich (Qantas Socceroos international duty), 31. Vince Grella (fitness - undisclosed)

Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory

By Ian Syson

Melbourne Heart FC v Perth Glory FC, Saturday December 8, AAMI Stadium.

At least Bill Murray's character in Groundhog Day got to start each repeated day with the same series of characters and events. John Aloisi doesn't even have that luxury of consistency as gameday after gameday passes without the footballing meaning of things revealing itself to him. Suspensions, injuries, Socceroo duty (and the ongoing absence of Mr Grella – just where is he?) have all borne heavily on the ever-changing make-up of the Heart squads.

This season could well be over before we get any sense of how good, bad, or indifferent this Melbourne Heart squad might be. There is little sense of consistency. Seven goals in the past four games might sound OK but zip, 1, 4, zip, 3, zip is starting to look, at best, like consistent inconsistency. Upbeat Heart supporters might see something positive in the club's recent home goalscoring form. And the season's first clean sheet last week by a team missing Socceroos Aziz Behich, Richard Garcia and Michael Marrone (albeit against the train wreck that is Sydney FC), must be pointing to something of a steeliness at the back.

This week Heart get to test that new mettle at the Bubbledome against a Perth Glory outfit whose only substantial victory margin

The Odds

Heart 2.60
Draw 3.35
Glory 2.75



ABC Radio Coverage - 774 & ABC Local Radio Victoria, 720 & ABC Local Radio Western Australia, Online, Grandstand Digital Melbourne & Perth.

Oh for a Regular Heartbeat

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was in the 2-0 win against Heart in Round 3. The noises coming from the west (through my digital radio) have not been overly impressive. Glory have let in on average one goal per game and their scoring rate has only been marginally better. Heart's forwards are starting to click at home, so that average may be under threat. Though Garcia's absence may put that notion to the sword. Tadic has been going well but may miss Garcia's quality and work-rate in behind him. At the other end of the park, any team with Shane Smeltz at the pointy end needs to be watched – and even though Heart's back line

has been about as good as any in the league this season, they always give the impression that they are just one dumb error away from letting in a dumber goal. Smeltz will be ready. Perth will score one. The question is: how many can Heart score?

A more pressing question is: how many punters will turn up? In Field of Dreams we were assured, "Build it and they will come!" Indeed they do come to the Bubbledome, in numbers; but only when Melbourne Victory are playing. It needs to be full every week and the A League needs a successful Heart to give it credibility. The league also needs it

oldest club to start to fire. Glory is the team that provides the link to the past and for many is the club that gives the A League a sense of legitimacy it could not have without it. They came close last season in the devastating grand final loss to the Roar but haven't yet set the world on fire this season.

I hope for football's sake that we get a cracker: a seven-goal thriller or a high-scoring draw. But even though my fingers will be crossed I suspect the fare might be plainer.

**Kiss of Death
Heart 2-1 Glory**



Glory Line Up

1.Danny Vukovic (gk)
3.Bas van den Brink
4.Billy Mehmet
5.Steve Pantelidis
6.Nick Ward
7.Jacob Burns (c)
8.Dean Hefferna
9.Shane Smeltz
10.Liam Miller
11.Adrian Zahra
13.Travis Dodd
14.Steven McGarry
15.Brandon O'Neill
17.Chris Harold
18.Jesse Makarounas
19.Josh Risdon
30 Lewis Italiano (gk)
*Two to be omitted

Ins: 7.Jacob Burns (returns from suspension), 10.Liam Miller (returns from injury)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 12.Ryo Nagai (Bone bruising knee 2-4 weeks), 16.Evan Berger (hamstring – indefinite), 21.Scott Jamieson (International duty – Qantas Socceroos), 23.Michael Thwaite (International duty – Qantas Socceroos)



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Jets Line Up

2. Scott Neville
5. Dominik Ritter
7. James Brown
8. Ruben Zadkovich
9. Emile Heskey
10. Bernardo Ribeiro
11. Connor Chapman
12. Josh Brillante
14. Taylor Regan
15. Craig Goodwin
17. James Virgili
18. Jacob Pepper
19. Michael Bridges
21. Marko Jesic
24. Mitch Oxborrow
25. Mitch Cooper
30. Jack Duncan (gk)
33. Matt Nash (gk)
*Three to be omitted

Ins: 14. Taylor Regan, 18. Jacob Pepper, 19. Michael Bridges, 21. Marko Jesic, 24. Mitch Oxborrow, 25. Mitch Cooper

Outs: 23. Ryan Griffiths, 4. Josh Mitchell, 16. Jobe Wheelhouse

Unavailable: 1. Ben Kennedy (knee), 3. Tiago Calvano (heel), 4. Josh Mitchell (suspended), 6. Ben Kantarovski (knee), 16. Jobe Wheelhouse (knee) 1. Mark Birighitti (cheekbone), 22. Adam Taggart (International duty – Qantas Socceroos), 23. Ryan Griffiths (suspended)

Newcastle Jets v CC Mariners

Sat Dec 08 Hunter Stadium 7:45pm

By Shaun Dyas

The game that has all Novocastrians and Central Coast fans salivating arrives again on Saturday night at Hunter Stadium as the Newcastle Jets face the Central Coast Mariners.

Issues abound for Newcastle coach Gary Van Egmond, who must be wondering just how he is going to assemble a competitive side for the clash against their arch rivals, who sit proudly on top of the competition ladder.

After last week's match in Brisbane, Newcastle will be without the now suspended Josh Mitchell, involved in the incident with Thomas Broich and Ryan Griffiths, who picked up his fifth yellow card of the campaign.

This is on top of the injuries to his two contracted goalkeepers Mark Birighitti and Ben Kennedy, along with longer term absentee Ben Kantarovski still sidelined with a knee injury.

Just as Van Egmond could not imagine things getting worse, his captain Jobe Wheelhouse also went down at training on Tuesday with a knee injury that could keep him out until the New Year.

Mariners Coach Graham Arnold has fewer issues with his team, who despite missing Socceroos Mat Ryan and Tomas Rogic disposed of previous ladder leaders Adelaide United 2-1 last weekend. The Mariners are a side that are very difficult to break down and



The Odds

Jets 3.00
Draw 3.50
Mariners 2.40

Depleted Jets face Ultimate Test against Fiercest Rival

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #F3Derby

Referee: Jarred Gillett

the question will be whether the Jets will have enough in their arsenal to score against the highly organised Mariners.

Newcastle could look to the speed and trickery of their wide players to unsettle the Mariners. In the previous encounter this season, youngsters James Virgili and Craig Goodwin terrorised Josh Rose and Pedj Bojic respectively.

Virgili was responsible for both goals as he fed Newcastle's talismanic striker Emile Heskey. The Englishman will be crucial again as he tries to finish off whatever chances the home side can create. He has been a little off in recent weeks and it would be naïve of the

Mariners not to expect a backlash. Central Coast will look to the combination of Newcastle born Daniel McBreen and young flyer Bernie Ibini to unsettle the Jets leaky defence. Only Sydney FC have conceded more goals this season and both these men will fancy their chances of scoring against yet another new central defensive pairing for Newcastle.

One player who does not perhaps receive the plaudits he deserves is the Central Coast's English import Nick Montgomery. The former Sheffield United man has been the heartbeat behind the Mariners this season, controlling the tempo in midfield and as a result most

matches.

He also scored the winner last week meaning that his confidence will be sky high and he will look to add to his tally for the season.

This match will come down to whether the home side can stop their greatest rivals from scoring. Newcastle always looks threatening in attack but just as vulnerable in defence. Most derbies are usually tight and tense affairs, but I have a feeling that this one could be high scoring and great entertainment for both sets of fans and the neutrals.

Kiss of Death
Jets 2-2 Mariners



Mariners Line Up

2. Daniel McBreen
3. Joshua Rose
4. Pedj Bojic
5. Zachary Anderson
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
7. John Hutchinson (c)
8. Adriano Pellegrino
9. Bernie Ibini
11. Oliver Bozanic
14. Michael McGlinchey
15. Brad McDonald
16. Trent Sainsbury
17. Anthony Caceres
18. Nick Montgomery
19. Mitchell Duke
20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
21. Mile Sterjovski
23. Adam Kwasnik
30. David Bradasevic (Gk)
*Four to be omitted

Ins: 15. Brad McDonald, 17. Anthony Caceres, 21. Mile Sterjovski, 23. Adam Kwasnik (all promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 10. Tomas Rogic (both International duty – Qantas Socceroos), 13. Brent Griffiths (suspended), 22. James Oates (ankle – 2 months)



Phoenix Line Up

Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
6. Alex Smith
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
9. Benjamin Totori
10. Stein Huysegems
11. Jeremy Brockie
12. Tyler Boyd
16. Louis Fenton
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
21. Dani Sanchez
22. Andrew Durante (C)
30. Griffin McMaster (GK)
*One to be omitted

Ins: 21. Dani Sanchez (returns from Injury)

Outs: Ricardo Clarke (released)

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite)

Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC

Sun Dec 09 Westpac Stadium 2:30pm

By Joe Gallagher

Without a win in five matches, the last place Sydney FC would want to be traveling this weekend is Westpac Stadium.

The Sky Blues have lost their last five matches against Wellington Phoenix, and haven't registered a win in New Zealand's capital since 2008.

And whatever confidence they may have taken from a goalless draw with Melbourne Heart last weekend will have taken a serious hit with news during the week reporting that star striker Alessandro del Piero is in doubt for the trip across the Tasman.

It would be a significant blow for the league's cellar-dwellers, given that the Italian superstar has contributed nearly half of their season's goals tally.

New coach Frank Farina watched the draw from the stands, but will be on the touchline for this match having spent his first full week with the squad.

It's been an eventful week for the former Socceroos boss; Farina has sacked his director of football Gary Cole, released young attacker Dimitri Petratos, and enforced a strict new training schedule for his new side.

But he will still be without Brett Emerton and Terry Antonis who are away on international duty. Sydney staff will be thankful defender Fabio is still available for the match after the Brazilian's shock-



The Odds

Phoenix 1.73
Draw 3.75
SFC 4.75

Sydney Face Uphill Battle To Upset Phoenix

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ABC Radio Coverage - Online & updates in Grandstand.

ing challenge on Heart defender Ben Garuccio mysteriously went unpunished.

On the other hand Ricki Herbert has the league's form striker in his arsenal. A fortuitous winner from Jeremy Brockie against the Wanderers meant that the Kiwi international has now scored six goals in his last five matches, and is just one shy of Danny McBreen at the top of the golden boot charts.

Sunday's win placed the Phoenix in the top six for the first time since round four. Their three-match losing slump seems to be put behind them, and the club will be hoping for more agreeable weather conditions this Sunday to increase the

quality of football, as well as crowd size.

Only 5000 punters watched the win against Western Sydney, and Farina's side will certainly be buoyed by the knowledge that Westpac Stadium is simply not the fortress it used to be for the Phoenix. If Farina is to take one positive from del Piero's potential absence, it would be that the removal of the crowd factor which contributed to over 12,000 fans' appearance the last time he came to Wellington.

But a defence which has leaked more goals in nine matches than any Sky Blues backline before it may find it tricky to contain a Phoenix attack which – despite not yet

finding its stride – has shown signs of extreme potency.

Brockie aside, Paul Ifill has five goals to his name against Sydney FC, and Belgian Stein Huysegems' first goal came in his A-League debut against the Sky Blues. And given Herbert's inclination to rest youngster Louis Fenton – who terrorised Sydney FC in their last meeting – there's plenty to suggest Wellington will be confident of finding the back of the net on Sunday.

It would take a very impressive effort from a disjointed Sydney FC to disrupt their form this weekend.

Kiss of Death
Phoenix 2-0 Sydney FC



Sydney FC Line Up

1. Ivan Necevski (gk)
2. Sebastian Ryall
3. Fabio
4. Pascal Bosschaart
5. Nathan Sherlock
6. Jason Culina
8. Adam Griffiths
9. Paul Reid
12. Blake Powell
14. Mitch Mallia
15. Terry McFlynn
16. Joel Chianese
20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
21. Yairo Yau
22. Ali Abbas
23. Rhyan Grant
24. Hagi Gligor
*Two to be omitted

Ins: 9. Paul Reid (promoted), 14. Mitch Mallia (promoted), 2. Sebastian Ryall (returns from suspension)

Outs: 10. Alessandro Del Piero (Hamstring, 1 week)

Unavailable: 17. Terry Antonis (International duty – Qantas Socceroos), 7. Brett Emerton (International duty – Qantas Socceroos)

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Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (GK)
2. Shannon Cole
3. Adam D'apuzzo
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Jerome Polenz
7. Labinot Haliti
8. Mateo Poljak
9. Dino Kresinger
11. Tarek Elrich
12. Tahj Minniecon
13. Joey Gibbs
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
15. Reece Caira
17. Youssouf Hersi
18. Iacopo La Rocca
19. Mark Bridge
20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)
21. Shinji Ono
23. Jason Trifiro

*Five to be omitted

Ins: Nil

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 10. Aaron Mooy (International duty – Qantas Socceroos)

West Syd Wanderers v Brisbane Roar

Sun Dec 09 Parramatta Stdm 5:00pm

By Alex Milic

Western Sydney Wanderers and Brisbane Roar face off for the second time this season, this time the venue is Parramatta Stadium and the Roar is on the road.

When they first met in Round 4, the Wanderers sealed their first win in A-League history when Mark Bridge scored in the 19th minute in front of almost 13,000 fans at Suncorp Stadium.

Going into Week 10 of the A-League, both clubs have failed to find any sort of rhythm, and both clubs have ten points to show for the first nine matches of the season.

Brisbane Roar has won two of their last three matches after three losses in a row, and are yet to win away from home this season.

Dutch winger Youssouf Hersi returns to the Wanderers squad after serving a two match ban. His skill and creativity could be the difference in the match.

Hersi says, "The coach put his trust in me and I want to pay that back, but the last two games I haven't been able to help him or the team. So against Brisbane, maybe I can do that. I have been training extra and now I feel good."

"The coach has helped me a lot. At the beginning I was not fit, I



Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #WSWvROAR

ABC Radio Coverage - Grandstand Digital Sydney and Online.

had hardly played any games in the last two years. Now everything is coming back, I feel good on the field and happy."

Hersi says, "We are concentrating now on Brisbane. I am ready and I cannot wait, I have so much energy. I'm excited like it's the first game of the season again." Tony Popovic, manager, Western Sydney Wanderers says, "He's been out for a couple of games which was disappointing from our point of view, the way it happened, but I'm sure he'll learn from that and is back available for this week."

"It's taken him a bit of time to

adapt physically and he hadn't played a great deal of football previously.

"We've been building up his match fitness and hopefully (the ban) hasn't set him back too much. It's good to have another player in the attacking third who can create opportunities for us." Popovic concludes.

Brisbane Roar goalkeeper Michael Theo will be looking to keep the Wanderers scoreless and in doing so he will become the third goalkeeper in the leagues history to manage 50 clean sheets.

Theo says, "If you look at the

saves column over last year and the year before, I probably didn't have that many saves to make but when I did, they were important ones."

"This year, I'm in the top three or four so it has been a little different but from my point of view, I enjoy it. The more work I get to do the better for myself but in saying that, when the ball is at the other end I don't mind that either."

Kiss of Death Wanderers 2-2 Roar



Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (GK)
- Shane Stefanutto (capt)
4. Matt Jurman
6. Erik Paartalu
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Muroccca
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
13. Yuji Takahashi
15. James Donachie
16. Do Dong-Hyun
17. Mitch Nichols
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (GK)
21. James Meyer
22. Thomas Broich
24. Nick Fitzgerald.

*Two to be omitted

Ins: 17. Mitch Nichols (promoted), 24. Nick Fitzgerald (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 2. Matt Smith (International duty – Qantas Socceroos), 5. Ivan Franjic (International duty – Qantas Socceroos)

Finals Series and FFA Cup are key to the code's future

A-League Rewind



By Robert Di Fabio

Australia's revamped domestic competition has encompassed some turbulent times in its short history, however there's an overwhelming feeling of excitement and optimism amongst A-League clubs and the football community in recent times. The product on the pitch is seemingly improving each season; crowds and television rating continue to escalate, while the new \$160 million, four-year deal with Fox Sports and SBS will aid the game's growth and underpin football into its next stage of development.

While football is continuing to make inroads, the structure of the A-League has always polarised opinion amongst fans of the code. The ongoing debate lingers – should a nationwide FFA Cup replace the A-League finals series?

Many fans argue that a first past the post structure is the best and fairest way to determine the league champion, as opposed to a knockout based system – where luck can play its part in a one-off fixture. This method of determining the league winner can be seen invariably around the globe, where the domestic league and cup are habitually separate, creating two unique competitions.

It is true; Australia is one of the very few nations in the world, in conjunction with the America's Major League Soccer competition to have a post-season play-off system. In football terms, it may not be the rational way to determine the nation's champion; however it is a sporting tradition that is unique to those particular nations.

What works abroad, doesn't necessarily mean it's the best method over here. For instance, promotion and relegation go hand-in-hand in Europe; it is part and parcel of football's ethos. Conversely, in Australia this system simply wouldn't be financially viable, despite what the Asian Football Confederation believes.

Relegated clubs would struggle to stay afloat, and more often than not die a painful death. The fiscal demands would be far too difficult for club's to

Scott Chipperfield, Alison Forman, & Alan Vessey inducted into FFA Hall of Fame

Retired Qantas Socceroo Scott Chipperfield, former Westfield Matilda Alison Forman and long-serving football administrator Alan Vessey were announced as the newest inductees into the Football Federation Australia (FFA) Hall of Fame at an event held in Brisbane on Thursday.

The FFA Hall of Fame recognises sustained and meritorious service to football by players, coaches, referees, administrators and volunteers at the national level. Since 1999, over 200 inductees have been honored.

FFA CEO David Gallop said that acknowledging individual contributions to the game was an important part of celebrating the game's history.

"Scott, Alison and Alan have con-

tributed significantly to our sport over long and distinguished careers and I commend them all for their achievements," said Gallop.

"Their stories are part of the game's rich history in Australia and I'm delighted that they now have the formal recognition by the Hall of Fame."

Scott Chipperfield was a stalwart for the Qantas Socceroos for more than a decade and was part of the famous Uruguay match the ended Australia's 32-year FIFA World Cup drought. Scott is part of a select group who played at two FIFA World Cup finals.

Alison Forman not only had a stellar career as an international footballer, captaining the Matildas at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. She is now a lead-

ing football administrator organising one of the world's largest international youth football tournaments, the Dana Cup in Denmark.

Alan Vessey contributed to football administration from the grass roots through to the national body during a 34 year career, including the organisation of a FIFA U-19 World Cup and 2000 Sydney Olympic Games Football tournament



of contention for the championship, or Asian Champions League positions. The average football fan, let alone sporting enthusiast wouldn't be interested in seeing their club finish mid-table without the opportunity of post-season glory.

Like it or not, the finals series is part of Australia's DNA, and it won't be altered any time soon. The notion of, let's replace the finals with a cup competition wouldn't capture the excitement, nor the imagination of the Australian sporting landscape.

The sentiment of having a nationwide cup competition, along with a finals series is the best

solution. The A-League will still have its usual post-season appeal, while the cup competition will be a fantastic opportunity to link the grassroots of the code, with the elite clubs around the country.

Watching some of the renowned clubs from the now-defunct National Soccer League lock horns with the likes of Brisbane Roar and Melbourne Victory will be a sight worth seeing. Let's not forget, clubs in the vein of South Melbourne, Sydney United and Melbourne Knights produced a crop of brilliant footballers, many whom were part of the Socceroos' golden generation from the 2006 and 2010 World Cup

campaigns.

These clubs may not be on the national stage anymore, although they are still playing an integral part in developing and nurturing the next generation of young players. An FFA Cup would be a worthwhile spectacle, but it would also be a chance for the football community to pay their respects to the clubs that help cultivate and grow football, at a time when the code had very little support in the mainstream sporting market.

An FFA Cup competition may be on standby for the moment, but its imminent introduction will expand football's reach throughout the local communities, and bring a different dimension which is currently lacking in the code.

The cup, in tandem with the finals series would both play a significant role within the sport, in spite of what some supporters may think. A business model cannot simply be mirrored on what works overseas; each market has its own unique characteristics and elements to success.

The finals series is here to stay. It's in Australia's blood – akin to our American neighbours – and a ritual that has featured heavily at the elite level of our major sporting codes.

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GOAL KICKS



GRAPHICS: ANITA MILAS



CLINT BOLTON
Melbourne Heart Goalkeeper
1

Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES



By Mark Boric

I don't like to comment on matches I don't watch, but Australia only winning 1-0 against Hong Kong leads me to declare I am somewhat unimpressed. Really, could Osieck have not just fielded a full team in which every out-field player has spent a portion of their career as a centre back? Have a go, Holger, or are you as big a coward as that imposter Pim Verbeek?

Another great weekend for A-League referees. Thomas Broich sent-off for something no

one noticed, including the match review panel who rescinded the card. Meanwhile Sydney FC's Fabio, not the most Beautiful Man in the World, but the Brazilian hack, got away with as close to murder as you can commit on a football pitch.

AFL coaching legend Kevin Sheedy is off to meet Sir Alex Ferguson this week. He may tell him to keep Israel Folau in mind as a future signing, as surely the athletic former Melbourne Storm star is trying to play every profes-sional football code for at least one season before he retires.

The FFA have jumped the gun in their 10 Millionth Fan promo-tion. Leading up to last weekend's round the hype machine built up the impending milestone, with the lucky fan set to win an Ultimate Grand Final Experience package. After a great start to the season, a recent crowd downturn continued and the 10 millionth fan did not turn up in Round Nine as anticipated.

How long was Brian Clough in charge at Leeds? Just the 44 days. Wonder if Rafa Benitez will



Brian Clough's 44-day tenure at Leeds United in 1974 was so disastrous that a book and a film both chronicled a heavily-fictionalised account of his time at Elland Road: The Damned United. Can Rafa Benitez make it to Christmas?

last that long at Chelsea? Highly doubtful.

David Beckham is still pon-dering his next career move. I reckon it's fair to say he will find another club before Harry Kewell does. Maybe Harry could have played against Hong Kong to put himself in the shop window, but no doubt he is far too much of an attacking player for Holger

to have considered for such a tricky tie.

Speaking of job seekers and short tenures, Nick Holland didn't last long as CEO of the PFA. Maybe someone finally twigged that he wasn't actually Dutch? Must be some interesting action behind the scenes with this one.

A terrible season could get



Sydney FC line up before taking on Wellington Phoenix this weekend.....

Against All Odds A-League Champion 2012/13	
Central Coast Mariners	4.50
Melbourne Victory	5.50
Adelaide United	6.00
Brisbane Roar	11.0
Perth Glory	15.0
Wellington Phoenix	19.0
Newcastle Jets	23.0
Melbourne Heart	34.0
Sydney FC	41.0
Western Sydney Wanderers	41.0

BOOTS 'N ALL



Roger Sleeman



Former EPL star Nick Montgomery hits the back of the net for the Mariners with a smashing strike, but the same can't be said for many of the attempts on goal last weekend. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

former heroes in many cases had earned very little from the game compared to modern players. Some of these people have not returned since and unfortunately before Sydney's match against the Heart, the club announced the room was no longer available for the Socceroos. Some credit must be accorded to Ted Smith, the secretary of the Socceroos Club, in organising free admission for the players but the process has failed because the former Socceroos could have been actively used in promoting the Sydney FC so they could earn their supper.

However, the problem is that the Socceroo Club committee has never been active in promoting the skills of its members to benefit the club and furthermore there is documentary evidence that match invitations were issued to a totally inadequate number of the former Socceroos which has critically contributed to the lack of response by the group. There was no reason a function,

open to the Sydney FC members and the football community, couldn't have been organised by the Socceroo Club and Sydney FC to present the former Socceroos to Del Piero which could have raised necessary funds to contribute to a small budget for catering needs and more importantly to identify the new football community with our former stars.

SHOOTING TECHNIQUES
Some of the long range at-tempts on goal in last week-end's A- League were nothing short of appalling. Thankfully, Josh Rose's piledriver, Nick Montgomery's perfect strike and Bruce Djite's low drive saved face for the players in the Mariners v Adelaide clash. Michael McGlinchey and Bernie Ibini should've been sent back to the drawing board immediately after the match because their shots lacked any timing or venom. At least they have the right man in Graham Arnold, as a former prolific striker, to work on their technique and to assist them in

maximising their opportunities when they have a sight on goal. Also John Kosmina needs to work with Evan Kostopoulos so that he can put more pressure on goalkeepers by improving his direction and increasing his power when shooting. One of the best shots of the round was the left footed screamer unleashed by Rhyan Grant for Sydney FC against the Heart which Andy Harper described as the player's least preferred foot. If Grant can continue to hit balls like this he should persist with the left foot because the shot in ques-tion outside the box was inches above Clint Bolton's crossbar and would surely have beaten the Heart custodian for power if it had travelled under the bar. Oh for the days of the great strik-ers Ray Baartz, Adrian Alston, John Doyle, Zlatko Nastic, Gary Cole, Damien Mori, Leo Baumgartner, Dez Marton, Marshall Soper and Dougie Brown who could all hit the target like a rocket?



It was a bad week for former Soc-ceroo Gary Cole. First, the Socceroo room at SFC was closed down, and then he was made redundant.

striker can be an A- League star and a future Socceroo.

COLE REDUNDANCY
The announcement by Sydney FC yesterday that Football Director and Socceroo legend, Gary Cole, had been made redundant was an amusing way to describe the events of his departure. The decision to restructure the football department implies that Frank Farina and, CEO, Tony Pig-nata, would now be responsible for future policy and recruitment. Gary Cole commenced his posi-tion in January, 2012, and with the departure of Ian Crook it was perhaps inevitable he would be the next person in the firing line over Sydney's poor results this season. However, the question that has to be asked is whether Cole was given the resources by the club to recruit players of a reasonable standard?

I believe the simple answer is no, because the players recruited were apparently bought at a budget price to satisfy salary cap require-ments and there were other play-ers like Boschaart who had their contracts renewed before Cole commenced his position. Hence Cole was in a no win situ-ation and with the signing of Del Piero, it would appear he and Ian Crook were unable to bolster the squad. Frankly, I think it's a tragedy that this former magnificent Socceroo striker has been prevented from continuing his work at the club alongside Frank Farina because I don't believe Tony Pignata, as well meaning as he is, can possibly fill the void which has been created with the loss of Cole's vast experi-ence and great knowledge of the game. However, nothing surprises me in football anymore as this game has the worst record for not crying out for the expertise of our past players.

THE DUKE OF GOSFORD
If ever a player is destined to excite the fans it will definitely be Mitchell Duke, the Mariners striker. Playing in the first few games of the season he seemed to lack sup-port up front and it's only in the last few weeks he's been used by Graham Arnold again. When he replaced Bernie Ibini, early in the second half against Ad-elaide, he literally tore the opposi-tion apart with his lightning speed and was instrumental in providing the pass for Nick Montgomery to seal the match for the Mariners. In 2007, I was the first writer to spot the talents of Mile Jedinak when he signed a short term deal with the Mariners. After conducting an extensive interview with him, I predicted he would play with the Socceroos. Hopefully, Graham Arnold will give Duke more game time because I believe with a bit more work on his left side and an improvement in his shooting technique, this intelligent young



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Hive Fives For Heart, Mariners Back On Top

By Daniel Quinn

The Central Coast Mariners jumped back to the top of the NYL table, while there were wins for the Victory, the Heart, the Glory and the Roar in a hot round 7 of the NYL.

Sydney FC and the Melbourne Heart got the round under way where the Heart ran out 5-1 victors in sweltering conditions at Leichhardt Oval.

The Heart found the opener on 15 minutes as Cameron Edwards pounced on a loose ball and setup Nicholas Epifano.

Evan Batsis doubled Heart's advantage on 35 minutes thumping a nod down past Sydney 'keeper Ryan Norval.

But Alec Uroevski gave the Sky Blues a chance to back a comeback superbly finishing from the edge of the box.

The Heart, though, made sure they secured all three points with Paulo Retre finishing off the scraps, before Evan Batsis headed in an Edwards free-kick and Stefan Mauk added a fifth.

Meanwhile in Melbourne at SS Anderson Reserve the Melbourne Victory triumphed 2-0 over the Newcastle Jets.

The wonderful Connor Pain burst down the left and found Isaka

Cernak who fired into the bottom corner past Jets 'keeper Nicholas Hartnett scoring the opener on 38 minutes.

Seven minutes into the second-half Victory extended their lead as Luke O'Dea slid Matt Foschini though, before the fullback's finishish sneaked through Hartnett.

Victory however finished with ten men as Theo Markelis was given this second yellow card for kicking the ball away after he was caught offside.

On Sunday morning the Perth



Luke Remington (Jets) takes to the air against Mathew Foschini (Victory). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Glory left Canberra with a 2-1 win over the AIS.

The Glory got off to the perfect start as a poor AIS clearance fell for Ndumba Makeche, before the quick striker turned and slammed his effort into the roof of the net. But Alexander Gersbach equalised for the hosts pouncing on a weak back pass, before poking home into an empty net after Perth 'keeper Jordan Franken was beaten.

The game wasn't level for long though as on 29 minutes Moses

Kalau manoeuvred his way towards goal, before blasting his strike in off the crossbar. The Central Coast Mariners jumped to top of the NYL table with a 3-0 win over the Western Sydney Wanderers.

The Mariners took an early lead as Adam Kwasnik directed a header into the net from a lovely Adriano Pellegrino corner. Pellegrino then doubled Central Coast's lead with a ferocious drive past an outstretched Western Sydney 'keeper Thomas Manos.

Central Coast though played the last nine minutes with ten men as Brent Griffiths was sent off, but there was still time for a third as Patrick Dixon finished from the edge of the box to cap off the victory.

Meanwhile in Brisbane the Brisbane Roar accounted for an Adelaide United side 3-1 at Goodwin Park. Brisbane started with the foot on the peddle and opened the scoring as Kwame Yeboah set up Anthony

Proia who finished from close range on 13 minutes. Eight minutes later, though, the Reds levelled the game as Awer Mabil ran onto a long Jordan Elsey ball before the winger coolly finished past Brisbane 'keeper Matthew Acton. Just before the break the Roar retook the lead as Proia secured his brace finishing off a Yeboah cross. Nick Fitzgerald completed the scoring on 58 minutes neatly fin-



W-League Wrap

www.goalweekly.com



Glory reclaim summit, Victory trounce Reds

By Ann Odong

Perth Glory continue to set the pace after an exciting Round 7 of the Westfield W-League with 20 goals scored across the four matches.

The Glory overpowered the in-form Western Sydney Wanderers with three unanswered goals to stay two points clear at the summit.

Marianna Tabain, Kate Gill and Collette McCallum were the three familiar names on the scoresheet for the Glory, who were largely dominant against the only side that had defeated them this season.

Jamie Harnwell's charges can virtually book their finals berth with victory in their crucial catch-up match against Canberra United on Wednesday.

Competition big guns Sydney FC and Brisbane Roar sit ominously in second place, although both were pushed hard before claiming late winners against Canberra United and Newcastle Jets respectively.

Sydney edged a last-gasp win over Canberra thanks to Emma Kete's strike as the Westfield W-League's match of the round was decided by the final kick for the second week in a row.

Canberra, having seen their 18 match undefeated run ended a fortnight ago, slumped to their second successive loss as Sydney triumphed by the odd goal in seven.

Despite the defeat the champions will take heart after twice drawing level, despite returning to excessive Sydney humidity following on from the near-freezing temperatures they experienced in Japan last weekend at the International Women's Club Championship.

Brisbane Roar, like Sydney, were boosted by the return of a host of key players from Westfield Matildas duty, but were still forced to rely on a winner ten minutes from full time by inspirational captain Clare Polkinghorne against Newcastle Jets.

The Roar travelled to Newcastle as



Laura Spiranovic opens the scoring for Melbourne Victory against Adelaide United. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

warm favourites but were 1-0 down at the interval after American midfielder Tori Huster broke the deadlock.

Brisbane replied with goals from Emily Gielnik and Amy Chapman, but Gema Simon's strike looked set to see the dividends shared until Polkinghorne's intervention.

There was a far more one-sided contest in Adelaide as the home side crashed to a 5-0 loss against the ever-improving Melbourne Victory.

The Victory were in control from the outset as Laura Spiranovic soon scored her third in four outings, with a double from Jessica McDonald before half-time effectively ending the contest.

Second-half strikes from Enza Barilla and Steph Catley completed a rout of the bottom side with the Victory well placed in fourth, just a point off second.

In the midweek match, Canberra United returned to winning ways with

a much-needed 2-1 win over Perth Glory in a rearranged Round 5 fixture in the nation's capital.

A high quality contest saw both teams create numerous goal scoring openings, but it was Canberra's new American import Nikki Washington who scored the winner eight minutes after the half-time interval.

A lively opening to the first half saw Canberra's Caitlin Munoz slot home a penalty after just five minutes, only for Rosie Sutton to equalise just four minutes later.

The chances continued at both ends with the Glory's Kate Gill and Collette McCallum both hitting the frame of the goal before the break.

After two consecutive losses the win moves Canberra back into finals contention, with United now sitting a point off fourth-placed Melbourne Victory, while Perth missed the opportunity to move five points clear at the top.



It's hive fives all round for the Victory as American import Jessica McDonald (10) grabs a brace. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Action between the Jets and Roar. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Round 7 Results

Brisbane Roar 3 (Proia 13, 42, Fitzgerald 58)
Adelaide United 1 (Mabil 21)

Central Coast Mariners Youth 3 (Kwasnik 23', Pellegrino 30', Dixon 86')
Western Sydney Wanderers Youth 0

AIS 1 (Alexander Gersbach 25')
Perth Glory 2 (Ndumba Makeche 6', Moses Kalau 29')

Melbourne Victory 2 (Cernak 38, Foschini 52)
Newcastle Jets 0

Sydney FC 1 (Uroevski 68)
Melbourne Heart 5 (Epifano 15, Batsis 35, 83, Retre 72, Mauk 90+)

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 CC Mariners	7	6	0	1	14	5	9	18
2 Melbourne Victory	7	5	0	2	19	6	13	15
3 Melbourne Heart	7	4	1	2	14	9	5	13
4 Newcastle Jets	7	4	1	2	16	12	4	13
5 Brisbane Roar	7	4	1	2	13	9	4	13
6 Perth Glory	3	0	3	3	13	13	0	9
7 WS Wanderers	7	2	3	2	10	13	-3	9
8 Adelaide United	7	2	2	3	13	12	1	8
9 Sydney FC	7	2	0	5	17	21	-4	6
10 AIS	7	0	0	7	6	35	-29	0

Round 8 Fixtures

Saturday 8 December
Western Sydney v Sydney FC
Campbelltown Stadium KO 4:45 PM

Saturday 8 December
Newcastle Jets v CC Mariners
Hunter Stadium KO 5:00 PM

Sunday 9 December
Melbourne Victory v AIS
SS Anderson Res, Port Melb KO 3PM

Sunday 9 December
Adelaide United V Perth Glory
Burton Park KO 3:30 PM

Sunday 9 December
Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Heart
Goodwin Park, Yeronga
KO 4:00 PM

All KO times ae AEDT

Round 7 Results

Newcastle Jets 2 (Tori Huster 16, Game Simon 69)

Brisbane Roar 3 (Amy Chapman 54, Emily Gielnik 62p, Clare Polkinghorne 80)

Perth 3 (Tabain 18, Gill 26, McCallum 60)
Western Sydney 0

Adelaide United 0
Melbourne Victory 5 (Spiranovic 8, McDonald 38, 42, Barilla 49, Catley 90)

Sydney FC 4
(Simon 4, 77, Kerr 16, Kete 94)

Canberra United 3
(Yeoman-Dale 32, Raso 60, Washington 84)

W-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Perth Glory	7	5	0	2	17	7	10	15
2 Sydney FC	7	4	1	2	17	12	5	13
3 Brisbane Roar	7	4	1	2	11	9	2	13
4 Melbourne Victory	7	4	0	3	13	7	6	12
5 Canberra United	7	3	2	2	14	10	4	11
6 WS Wanderers	7	3	1	3	11	10	1	10
7 Newcastle Jets	7	1	1	5	10	21	-11	4
8 Adelaide United	7	1	0	6	6	23	-17	3

Round 8 Fixtures

Brisbane Roar Vs Perth Glory
Queensland Sports & Athletics Centre, Nathan (QSAC)
Sat 8 Dec KO 10:00am

WS Wanderers FC Vs Adelaide United
Campbelltown Stadium
Sat 8 Dec KO 2:00pm

Canberra United Vs Newcastle Jets
Deakin Football Stadium
Sat 8 Dec KO 4:00pm

Melbourne Victory Vs Sydney FC
Wembley Park, Box Hill
Sat 8 Dec KO 4:00pm

All KO times ae AEDT

Couch Potato

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



SBS ONE
Sunday December 9th
10:30 am Football Asia
11:00 am UEFA Champions League Magazine

Monday December 10th
11:00 pm The World Game

SBS TWO
Monday December 10th
9:30 pm The World Game



FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER
Europa League Udinese v Liverpool 4:55am **LIVE**
Europa League Tottenham v Panathinaikos 7:00am **LIVE**
Europa League Bordeaux v Newcastle 9:15am 1st Airing
Europa League Teams TBC 11:05am 1st Airing
Blue Square Premier Newport v Luton 1:30pm 1st Airing
Europa League Matchday 6 Highlights 7:00pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 16 Preview Show 8:00pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER
nPower Championship Blackburn v Cardiff 6:40am **LIVE**
Blue Square Premier Barrow v Hereford 9:00am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Hamburg v Hoffenheim 1:15pm 1st Airing
Copa Sudamericana Final 1st Leg Highlights 7:00pm 1st Airing
SPL Kilmarnock v Celtic 11:25pm **LIVE**

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER
Bundesliga Augsburg v Bayern 1:25am **LIVE**
nPower Championship Wolves v Birmingham 4:15am **LIVE**
Eredivisie Ajax v Groningen 6:40am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Dortmund v Wolfsburg 10:35am 1st Airing
nPower Championship Derby v Leeds 2:15pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Frankfurt v Bremen 5:55pm 1st Airing
SPL Dundee v Dundee United 11:40pm **LIVE**

MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER
Primera Division Teams TBC 5:25am **LIVE**
Eredivisie NAC v Feyenoord 7:30am 1st Airing
Primera Division Teams TBC 9:25am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Monchengladbach v Mainz 11:40am 1st Airing
Eredivisie PSV v Twente 1:30pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Hannover v Leverkusen 3:20pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 16 Highlights 7:00pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER
nPower Championship Round 21 Highlights 7:00pm 1st Airing
SPL Round 17 Highlights 7:30pm 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 16 Highlights 8:00pm 1st Airing

WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER
Capital One Cup Quarter-Final Bradford v Arsenal 6:40am **LIVE**

THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER
Capital One Cup Quarter-Final Swansea v Middlesbrough 6:40am **LIVE**
Copa Sudamericana Final 2nd Leg Teams TBC 10:55am **LIVE**

FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER
Bundesliga Round 17 Preview Show 7:00pm 1st Airing



Friday 7th Dec
02:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show
03:00 am Arsenal TV
08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

Saturday 8th Dec
05:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Sunday 9th Dec
06:00 am Arsenal TV

Monday 10th Dec
03:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
12:30 pm The Serie A Highlights Show

Tuesday 11th Dec
03:00 am Arsenal TV

Thursday 13th Dec
02:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup
03:00 am Bundesliga
05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE **LIVE**
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

English Premier League
Sun Dec 9 Arsenal v West Brom 1.53 am Fox 1
Sun Dec 9 Aston Villa v Stoke 1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Dec 9 Southampton v Reading 1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Dec 9 Swansea v Norwich 1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Dec 9 Sunderland v Chelsea 1.53 am Fox 2
Sun Dec 9 Wigan v QPR 1.53 am Fox 3
Mon Dec 10 Man City v Man United 12.15 am Fox 2
Mon Dec 10 Everton v Tottenham 1.53 am Fox 3
Mon Dec 10 West Ham v Liverpool 2.53 am Fox 2
Tue Dec 11 Fulham v Newcastle 6.53 am Fox 1

Hyundai A-League
All games **LIVE**

Fri Dec 7 Adelaide Utd v Melb Victory 7.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Dec 8 Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory 5.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Dec 8 Newcastle v Central Coast 7.45 pm Fox 1
Sun Dec 9 Wellington v Sydney FC 2.30 pm Fox 1
Sun Dec 9 Western Sydney v Brisbane Roar 5.00 pm Fox 1

FOX SPORTS FC
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

Round 10: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

AUFC (2) Victory (3) Draw (3) - Heart (5) Glory (1) Draw (2) - Jets (2) Mariners (5) Draw (1) - Phoenix (6) Sydney (0) Draw (1) - Wanderers (2) Roar (3) Draw (3)

SANTO CILAURO **18**

Draw
Heart
Jets
Phoenix
Roar

Last week: 3

CRAIG MACKENZIE **21**

Victory
Heart
Mariners
Phoenix
Draw

Last week: 4

EDDIE KRNCVIC **16**

Draw
Draw
Mariners
Phoenix
Roar

Last week: 2

PETER KATHOLOS **16**

Victory
Draw
Mariners
Draw
Wanderers

Last week: 1

ROGER SLEEMAN **24**

Adelaide
Heart
Mariners
Wellington
Roar

Last week: 4

ANDY HARPER **19**

Victory
Heart
Jets
Draw
Draw

Last week: 4

JOHN DOYLE **19**

Adelaide
Glory
Mariners
Phoenix
Wanderers

Last week: 2

KISS OF DEATH **19**

Draw
Heart
Draw
Phoenix
Draw

Last week: 4

Crying foul to Asia will get us nowhere

By Roy Hay

COMMENT - ACL SPOT DEBATE

While I have a lot of sympathy for Tony Sage and Anthony di Pietro in their vocal disappointment at the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) reduction of the number of Asian Champions League (ACL) places available to Australia, the criticism is misdirected. Australia has been given dispensation from the rules which apply to this competition since the A-League began.

The AFC always directed its policy towards encouraging Football Federation Australia (FFA) to increase the number of teams in its flagship domestic league and form a second division as soon as possible.

Now that FFA has explicitly said there will be no expansion in the number of teams taking part in the A-League for the duration of the next television contract the AFC must have realised that its concession to Australia was not going to bear fruit in the next few years.

There is no doubt that FFA will have asked for an extension of the present arrangements which give Australia two guaranteed spots and one qualifying place. Also Tony Sage of Perth Glory says he was assured that there would be no change for the next iteration of the Champions League. But after the experience of Australia's attempts to join the AFC dating back to 1972,

David Hill's unilateral attempt to get FIFA support for Australia leaving Oceania to join Asia, and the saga of the recent World Cup hosting bid, little trust, if any, should be placed in verbal promises by individuals and national



organisations to act or vote in favour of Australian interests.

Hosting the Asian Cup of Nations in 2015 will help increase our profile and, I hope, our credibility in Asia, but in the interim we need to be doing more at all levels to build durable connections with our Asian counterparts. Some people who supported Australian entry to the Confederation have now moved on, and the current generation of leaders are probably cooler towards us than their predecessors. It is hard to judge because all the right comradely noises were being made recently when the Cup hosting and the logo were launched at a function in Melbourne. Given that our entry into Asia has been driven hard by commercial imperatives and self-interest, we should not be surprised at being assessed on those criteria and have them applied dispassionately to us by our peers in Asia.

It is easy to understand why FFA is reluctant to increase the number of teams in the league or start a second division because the costs involved would

seriously deplete the funds available from the new broadcast agreement. These funds are already stretched to cover the salary caps of the existing teams and the international commitments from the Socceroos and the Matildas to the youth teams of both genders. But until we meet AFC criteria any complaints about fewer places in the ACL need to be directed to the FFA, and should be accompanied by seriously worked out plans as to how the FFA can raise the funds to finance the kind of expansion of the game at senior level which full membership of the AFC requires.



What's HOT!!

Australia entering an Asian sub-regional tournament for the first time (namely the East Asian Cup) concludes arguably the last bit of unfinished business since we joined the AFC in 2006 - although geographic logic would suggest we play in the ASEAN Cup (formerly the Tiger Cup), the presence of Japan, South Korea and China in this sub-zone means this is an opportunity we could not pass up; all the better given Holger Osieck now has games in which to blood Australia's next-gen Socceroos. True, our opening 1-0 win against Hong Kong in atrocious conditions was an exercise in patience if nothing else, and the big test of North Korea beckons at the time of writing, but here's hoping the boys do us proud and push their case for regular NT selection at the same time. Go Aussie Go!!

What's NOT!!

On the flip-side, the AFC's about-face in reducing Australia's Asian Champions League spots to 1.5 whilst the Qatari league retains 4 (?) is nothing short of staggering...is this any way to treat the next continental championship host(2015 Asian Cup) country? Whilst it is true A-League sides' performances at continental level (Adelaide's 2008 run aside) have left much to be desired, it shows again how lackadaisical the AFC's attitude to their club continental showpiece is; bad enough it isn't open to clubs from all AFC member nations, and decisions such as this do nothing to dispel the AFC powerbrokers' reputations whatsoever. In saying that, it appears the best thing to do is to pick ourselves up, roll up our sleeves and prove them wrong by improving our ACL performances: it's what we Aussies do, so let's get on with it if we've really got no other choice!

- Alvaro Rodriguez

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Edwards sees bright Socceroo future



"DON'T tell me we don't have great players coming through the system," said Joeys head coach Alistair Edwards. He sounded like he was up for this interview and I think I may have hit a nerve.

"Shortly you'll all see what standard of players we are producing and while it won't come as a surprise to people who know the facts it may surprise those that are all too ready to question the next generation of players and who say they aren't good enough for the Socceroos."

And that was Edwards in a good mood on Wednesday after a worthwhile day watching the NTC Challenge in Canberra.

The former Socceroo has crammed a lot into the last 44 years. He has been a successful professional footballer at club level having plied his trade in four countries, boasts 19 A-internationals among 22 Socceroo appearances, has been assistant and head coach of the Young Matildas, has assisted with various Australian men's national youth teams and is the current FFA assistant technical director. He also holds an AFC Pro Licence and has conducted research in Japan, Holland, France and England on talent development and identification as part of the FFA Development Review. And played a part in the development and promotion of the National Curriculum.

"The main focus of my role as assistant technical director is overseeing the NTC programs around the country, the management of that as well as our skills acquisition program," he said.

"The players in the NTC programs as well as the AIS players make up the Joeys. I travel around the country and work closely with all the (NTC) coaches which fits in really well with my role as Joeys coach."

You can be forgiven for thinking that football is all-consuming but somehow Edwards has found time to get married and be the father of four sons, gain an MBA from Edith Cowan University, sit as a local councillor for the City of Cockburn in the southern suburbs of the WA capital, work as a sports consultant for the WA government, and a football commentator on Perth radio station 90.5FM.

So did the five years he dutifully served the Cockburn community give him skills he can put to good use today?

"Definitely. Having grown up as a footballer my time on the council gave me a more holistic perspective and it taught me a lot about managing people. It gives you a big-picture approach and you start

adopting a strategic approach to everything you do."

No doubt he picked up a few political skills along the way. I expected him to duck and weave when asked about young Aussie players being developed overseas rather than through our own pathways but he never flinched and was straight to the point.

"I embrace the national curriculum and I am 100 per cent behind our development pathways. I believe strongly that if people are offered the opportunity to stay in Australia then they are crazy to go overseas."

"Jamie MacLaren (Blackburn Rovers) is a good example of what I'm trying to say. The reason he went overseas, and this is very important, is that he wasn't given the opportunity to stay here. He wasn't selected for the AIS program at the time."

"My two oldest boys (Cameron and Ryan) were in the same boat. The problem we've got, and it's a problem we have to fix, is that there are gaps in our program."

"My sons went through every development process in the country. Cameron, my oldest, was in the national youth league, the Joeys, played for the under-20s etcetera but he didn't get the chance to play with a senior A-League team."

"That's how quickly things can change.

"Look at the Young Socceroos. They were a minute away from not going through to the quarter-finals (in November's AFC Under-19 tournament).

"If they hadn't qualified can you image the noise that would have caused?"

"Same with Ryan. He was in the AIS program, had been in the state program, and when it came to him leaving the AIS he went on trial with four A-League clubs but nothing came of it."

"He faced a lengthy break in the youth league so he went to Reading and to be honest he went there to train but after 15 or 20 minutes in a trial match they signed him on a four-year deal."

The point Edwards is making is that had both his boys been offered senior A-League deals they



Alistair Edwards (centre) with Michael Edwards (NTC Women's coach Tasmania) and Kurt Reynolds (FFT Technical Director) at a coaching conference in Hobart recently. Photo: WALTER PLESS

would have stayed here. He's also alluding to the fact that opportunities at A-League level are scarce.

But Cameron Edwards, who was released by Reading a few months back after completing a deal lasting just over a year, is now training with Melbourne Heart, the club he originally hoped to join, so things may work out for him there.

His younger brother Ryan played for Reading's first team in a friendly on Tuesday, has captained the Young Socceroos and seems set for a lengthy career overseas.

"I work with some fantastic people and some great players and we have a strong belief in the long-term strategic direction we are taking," said Edwards senior.

"Look, if we weren't doing the research, we weren't doing what we are supposed to then decisions would be made on a reactionary basis. That's not our style."

"The whole philosophy is based on making the Socceroos one of the best teams in the world. That's basically what we are trying to do."

"Our players are seen by FIFA as big and strong but not technically gifted compared to the top countries and this is something we want to deal with."

"That's the FIFA reports that are telling us that, not just an opinion from someone in Australia. That's why the skill acquisition program has been put in place - to address that situation."

At the risk of opening old wounds I asked Edwards about the wash-up of the inability of the Joeys to make the semis of the AFC under-16 finals in September/October which would have given them automatic qualification for next year's World Under-17 tournament.

The youngsters won their first two games then lost to Iraq in a penalty shootout in their third game, a result that pushed them into second place in the group and a quarter-final showdown against host nation Iran which they lost 5-1.

"Am I disappointed that we didn't qualify for the World under-17 finals? Of course I am. If we had won the shootout we would have faced a weaker country (Kuwait) and people might have ended up being delighted with the development of our young players."

"That's how quickly things can change."

"Look at the Young Socceroos. They were a minute away from not going through to the quarter-finals (in November's AFC Under-19 tournament)."

"If they hadn't qualified can you image the noise that would have caused?"

"We were one minute away from hearing that youth development in this country is a disaster even though we are talking about one of the best generations of players I've seen here."

"There needs to be a debate about youth development here and it's good that we have it but people need to know the facts."

A fact Edwards doesn't easily talk about is other countries cheating about a player's age. It's a problem throughout Asia and other parts of the world and it isn't confined to football.

He also could have said that his was the youngest squad at the under-16 finals and that eight of his squad will be eligible for the next campaign but he didn't.

No, he'd prefer to put that behind him and adhere to the strategic plan that is in place with an unshakeable belief that it will

bear fruit.

"Look at the Japanese. Are they concerned that their under-20s haven't qualified for the last three World Cups. They're disappointed, sure, but they stick to their programs and there's a reason for that. Have a look at their senior national team."

"There are only four teams from Asia that can go through to World Cup finals and we are all realising that it is difficult for a number of reasons."

"There are circumstances in Asia that we are trying to deal with and the good thing is that the more people come and see what we are doing the more they realise that we are on the right track."

Socceroo legend Craig Moore has been at this week's NTC Challenge and addressed both players and parents in a speech that struck a chord with Edwards.

"He told the story that when he was with the Joeys he went to a World Cup finals but out of that entire squad of 23 he was the only one who became a Socceroo."

"That's why we are taking a long-term view now. As best we can we want to pick the best players who we think can go on and become Socceroos."

"They might not be the biggest or the strongest in their age group but we want them to have the technical ability that aligns with the playing philosophy we have adopted and want to continue to develop."

What about one final comment about the fickle nature of success? Now Edwards talks about cheating.

"Don't forget that Ange Postecoglou who had our Joeys at the time didn't even qualify for the qualifiers (for a World Cup spot) because he came up against Laos who used over-age players."

"Look at the way people reacted then and look at the way people see Ange now."

"Ange says that success has many fathers but when it doesn't quite go as planned we all become orphans."

At which point I'm starting to wonder if Edwards is always so intense.

Maybe he needs a holiday, a good break over Christmas and New Year and I've got just the place for him and his family to go (bar Cameron if things work out with Melbourne Heart).

It's a wee village called Kinlochleven in the west highlands of Scotland where many, many years ago a previous Edwards generation lived in Ferry Cottage at Callart, a few miles away on the north side of Loch Leven.

"It's a very, very nice place. I love it," said Edwards after the initial shock of learning that I'm from Kinlochleven had subsided.

His wife and two youngest boys flew to England on Wednesday, a deal that is part of Ryan's Reading contract.

Edwards will join them later and the family will spend the festive season in the UK.

Part of the travel plan is to retrace their family origins by visiting Kinlochleven, Callart and Fort William, the main town in the Lochaber area.

The historic Glencoe lies on the south side of Loch Leven not far from the haunts of a previous Edwards generation and there is much to see amid a stunning landscape.

It's a far cry from squaring up to the locals in a cauldron-like atmosphere in Teheran but it's a fair bet that the current chieftain of the Joeys clan will still have football on his mind.



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The Box Hill Story

Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

Box Hill is one of Victoria's oldest clubs. Or is it? The origins of many clubs are quite obscure and there is reason to doubt a number of the generally accepted notions about Box Hill.

Until I started researching for this column I accepted the Victorian Soccer Federation's statement that Box Hill was founded in 1922, but I can find no sign of it in the newspapers of that year. The one copy of Soccer News for 1924 in the State Library has no mention of Box Hill. It is possible that friendly and scratch games were being played in 1922 to 1924. Today's Box Hill United's website says the club began in 1925 and won Division Four of the Victorian league that year. (Incidentally the Brighton club website also claims that it won Division Four in 1925.)

In fact there were two clubs in Box Hill in 1925, Box Hill and Box Hill United. It was the former which won the league and was promoted to Division Three, while United remained in Division Four in 1926. Both teams took part in the Dockerty Cup. So we can safely say that there was league and cup football being played in Box Hill by two teams in 1925, but that is about all.

In June 1926 there was a nasty accident when the players of Werribee Soccer Football Club were on their way to meet Box Hill. The truck in which they were travelling was struck by a car at the junction of Flinders and Queen Street and overturned and the players were thrown into the road. We know about this because the truck's owner sought £40 from the driver of the car for the damage done to his truck and won the court case in September. There is no mention of any recompense for the players! Box Hill went on to win Division Three.

The following year there was a split in the organisation of the game in both Victoria and New South Wales. Box Hill joined the Metropolitan Districts, while Box Hill United was part of Section A of the Melbourne and District group. In 1928 Box Hill United became Camberwell City, leaving the Box Hill club as the sole representative of the area. It was as confusing to people at the time as it is to understand today. The split had no sooner been provisionally mended when the Great Depression struck Australia and the game received a serious set-back.

When things began to improve slightly in 1931 Box Hill won Division Two of the Victorian League and promotion to the top division, which was not automatic in those days. But this proved a step too far and in 1932 the club finished last in an eight-team league. Box Hill was not relegated however and came sixth in a ten-team league in 1933. The club rose to fourth the next year, but was back in last place in 1935. This time it was relegated. John Punshon has been unable to find a final table for Division Two in 1936 but with four games left Box Hill was safely in mid table. Nobels was the runaway Division Two cham-



Tom Jack had a season at Box Hill in 1952. Source: Soccer News.



Nick Kokolakis (centre) and Matt Collier share the moment with Box Hill's jubilant fans after the team's win against Whittlesea Ranges in the Play-Off game in October 2012. The Hillman will now play in the FFV State League One next season. Photo: John Punshon



BOX HILL 1986 - Back row: Craig Davidson, Harry Hird, George Gagic, Andy McMillan, John McKinlay, Phil Griffin, Gary McPhee, Dean Hennessey. Front row: Lawrie McKinna, Pedro Ramos, Andy Hughes, Barry Burton, Alan Roodhouse, Chris Taylor, David Azzopardi.

Photo: John Punshon

pion in 1937 and Box Hill led the chasing group, while in 1938 it had dropped back to mid-league mediocrity.

The outbreak of war in 1939 may well have had an impact on the Box Hill club which did not win a game in Division Two finishing last. Nineteen-forty was little better with one win, and that was a walk-over, in an incomplete season. There was little continuity among the names on the team sheets that year. Eleven starters and four reserves were named for the away game at South Yarra

in July, but the result was nine-nil against. There were only six teams in Division Two in 1941 and Box Hill was in the middle. The club probably gave up trying to compete in the attenuated competition for the rest of the war years, but in 1945 it appeared again in a league of 13 teams which played each other once, then split into two groups of six who played each other once more.

From this rather ordinary performance, Box Hill was about to embark on one of its most successful periods, winning the



Box Hill women's team in 2010 after defeating Heidelberg United in the WPL Grand Final. Photo: Daniel Flis.



One constant feature of Box Hill football was its stadium at Wembley Park to which it moved in 1958. Source: Wikipedia, Creative Commons. Inset: Club logo c.2007.

1963, 1984 and 1989.

For the next few years Box Hill yo-yoed between the State League and the First Division. It was too good for the lower division and not good enough to stay in the top tier. The later part of the 1970s saw Box Hill in Metropolitan Division One until 1982 when it climbed back into the State League before successive relegations saw it drop to State League Two at the end of 1991, when the Victorian Premier League began. That shock led to the club amalgamating with Clayton as Box Hill Inter and a rise to the VPL for the 1995 season. Two years later there was another amalgamation this time involving Bulleen Lions and Brunswick United Juventus, which resulted in two VPL championships in 1998 and 2004 after the combined side finished third in the home and away matches. However, Box Hill gradually disengaged itself from the merger becoming effectively a junior club with Richard Mensink and John Kennedy at the helm in 1999. The demerger was expensive but eventually finalised in 2007.

Meanwhile Box Hill fielded a women's team which took the Victorian Women's Premier League by storm winning the title six times by 2010. Back to back titles against Heidelberg United in 2009 and 2010 were highlights. Many top class players have been involved with Box Hill over the years, as juniors coming through or as senior players and mentors. They include Scott Patterson (and his brother Kyle, who is now head of media at Football Federation Australia), Micky Valentine, Damian Mori, Peter Bedford and Curtis Good.

In 2011 Box Hill was involved in yet another merger, this time with Southern Suburbs. The new entity is known as Box Hill United with the nickname Pythagoras reflecting the Greek influence of what used to be Oakleigh Suburbs in the 1990s.

Division One title for the first and only time in 1948. Led by Don Hutchinson the club won ten out of fourteen games and banged in 45 goals. Hutchinson got 17 of them including three hat-tricks. The Box Hill line-up in 1948 included Vic Warry, Brown, Jack Holborn, Bill Tester, Don Hutchinson, Keith Gravell, Lester Hutchinson, F Mountford, Davis, Bayley, W Chappell, Brown and A McKellar.

Until the influx of migrants from Europe the clubs which drew on British and Australian play-

ers held sway and Box Hill was in the top five positions in each season until 1952. Thereafter the competition became fiercer and the Hillmen would probably have been relegated in 1958, if the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association had not instituted a State League with twelve clubs that year. It only staved off the execution until 1961 when Box Hill dropped into Division One North where it remained until winning what was then Metropolitan Division One in 1968. The reserves won the Armstrong cup in 1960,



Ashy & Vipers In Major Upsets

Sunday was round five of the Nike V-League and it was full of upsets with Ashburton and Vic Vipers both dropping points. Pascoe Vale is still in pole position on the ladder with Metropolitan just behind.

Hume too hot for Brighton
Hume FC season is coming along nicely and the match against Brighton was a match they were never in danger of losing. Hume dominated throughout the game with Brighton reduced to taking shots from distance, all in all a good result of the Hume boys.
Hume FC 6 (S.Cicek 3, V.Mazurskiy 2, R.Culculoglu) def. Brighton FC 0

FC Prahran get the points over FC Balwyn
FC Prahran look to be coming back into the form and there 11 goals which included both Maxi Avram and Michael Disasi recording hat-tricks, this should give Prahran a massive confidence boost during the Christmas period. Balwyn were missing the Saric brothers which are a massive loss for the team, however the positives were they looked dangerous and still managed to put 6 goals past Prahran on a off day, they will be hoping to bounce back in round 6.
FC Prahran 11 (M. Avram 3, M. Disasi 3, J. Knight 2, C. Mogoai, T. Coulibaly, H. Diagne) def. FC Balwyn 6 (R. Luka 3, T. Imeri, S. La Manda, E. Evans)

FC Essendon taste victory over sloppy Ashburton
FC Essendon record their first win of the campaign with a resounding 4-1 victory over 2nd placed Ashburton FC. From the opening whistle Essendon looked the hungrier of the two teams as they applied pressure on Ashburton, while Ashburton appeared to come into the match thinking that is was already won. Abdoul Ahmed chimed in with a double for Essendon and hopefully they can repeat in round six.
FC Essendon 4 (A. Ahmed 2, J. Turner, J. Jiminez) def. Ashburton FC 1 (A. Farina)
Pascoe Vale to hot for Morland
A well-drilled Pascoe Vale FC didn't get out of first gear as they cruised to a 13-2 victory over Mor-



Balwyn Manager Nikos Ignatiadis rallies his troops at half time. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS



Essendon Manager Alex Cobo (back) got his first win of his reign over in form Ashburton. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

land. Jose Portillo and Joao Da Silva both continued their fine form as they both recorded hat-tricks. Moreland have been unable to find the form they started the competition with and if they don't turn it around they may find themselves in the relegation battle.
Pascoe Vale FC 13 (J. Da Silva 3, J. Portillo 3, E. Simsek 2, T. Umeda 2, S. Soufi 2, T. Korkmaz (OG) def. Moreland FC 2 (T. Sumbul, B. Koca)

CF Brunswick leaves it late to defeat Fitzroy
CF Brunswick scored with 2secs left on the clock to record a remarkable victory. Not for the first time Fitzroy have let the lead slip as they looked comfortable leading 3-1 thanks to an Adam Hussein hat-trick. Brunswick worked hard in the second half to turn around the 3-1 half time deficit. Duke Duva was the star for Brunswick with his hat-trick ensuring the game would go down to the wire. Ryan Filipovic scored the winner for



Metropolitan superstar Juso Julardzija put in a 5 star performance guiding his side to a comfortable win over The Vic Vipers. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS



Man Of The Match Joao Da Silva in his post game interview. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

Brunswick after a mistake from Fitzroy lead to Filipovic going one-on-one with the keeper and his calm finish into the bottom right corner ensured the points for Brunswick.
CF Brunswick 5 (D. Duva 3, R. Filipovic, N. Yaw) def. Fitzroy FC 4 (A. Hussein 3, A. Alicevic)
Juso Julardzija tears Vipers apart
Metropolitan FC finally turned up to play the full 40mins as they tore the Vic Vipers apart.

Vipers are not the same team as last season and they look on their last legs, however Metro was not about to show any mercy. Juso Julardzija scored five goals and proved his value to Metro, Julardzija was well supported by team mate Redzepovic who got a hat-trick
Metropolitan FC 10 (J. Julardzija 5, A. Redzepovic 3, A. Karic, Y. Coceski) def. Vic Vipers FC 5 (K. Mu 2, H. Tran, Jas. Barrientos, Jon. Barrientos)

V-League Standings									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
1 Pascoe Vale FC	5	4	1	0	51	18	+33	13	
2 Metropolitan FC	5	4	0	1	43	23	+20	12	
3 Hume FC	5	3	1	1	36	15	+21	10	
4 Vic Vipers FC	5	3	1	1	28	22	+6	10	
5 Ashburton FC	5	3	1	1	19	13	+6	10	
6 Moreland FC	5	3	0	2	25	36	-11	9	
7 CF Brunswick	5	2	0	3	20	23	-3	6	
8 FC Prahran	5	2	0	3	27	35	-8	6	
9 Fitzroy FC	5	1	1	3	20	21	-1	4	
10 FC Balwyn	5	1	1	3	26	37	-11	4	
11 FC Essendon	5	1	0	4	9	38	-29	3	
12 Brighton FC	5	0	0	5	9	32	-23	0	

Round 5 Clashes Sunday December 2	
*2:00 FC Balwyn 6-11 FC Prahran	
*3:00 Hume FC 6-0 Brighton FC	
*4:00 Moreland FC 2-13 Pascoe Vale FC	
*5:00 Ashburton FC 1-4 FC Essendon	
*6:00 CF Brunswick 5-4 Fitzroy FC	
*7:00 Vic Vipers FC 5-10 Metropolitan FC	

Round 6 Clashes Friday December 7	
* 6:30 pm FC Prahran vs. Ashburton FC	
* 7:20 pm CF Brunswick VS Metropolitan FC	
* 8:10 pm Vic Vipers Fc VS Pascoe Vale Fc	
* 9:00pm FC Balwyn VS Hume FC	
* 9:50 pm Brighton F.C VS Moreland FC	
* 10:40pm FC Essendon VS Fitzroy FC	

Top Goal Scorers	
Burukan Koca (Moreland FC) – 11 Goals	
Jose Portillo (Pascoe Vale FC) – 10 Goals	
Alija Redzepovic (Metropolitan FC) – 10 Goals	
Juso Julardzija (Metropolitan FC) – 9 Goals	
Ernie Simsek (Pascoe Vale FC) – 8 Goals	
Sofiane Soufi (Pascoe Vale FC) – 7 Goals	

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Montenegro



By Alvaro Rodriguez

NAME: Montenegro
CAPITAL: Podgorica
POPULATION: (2011 approx.) 625,266
CONFEDERATION: UEFA
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Kirin Cup 3rd-place 2007

FIFA WORLD RANKING: 34th
EURO APPEARANCES: N/A (2000 as ½ of Serbia & Montenegro)
WORLD CUP APPEARANCES: N/A (1998, 2006 as ½ of Serbia & Montenegro)

WHO ARE YA?

Montenegro is situated in the Adriatic coastal region of the Balkans in south-eastern Europe, bordering Croatia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia. The history of what is now Montenegro dates back to the time of Christ, when the Romans annexed the region of Doclea (where the capital Podgorica now stands) circa 9 AD, and the area was mentioned in the writings of Ptolemy and Pliny the Elder. The Slavs colonised the region in the 6th Century AD, and the principality of Duklja was established, although it was eventually incorporated into the Byzantine Empire's sphere of influence, to which it adhered until 1042. Over the next 400+ years Duklja would ward off designs on it by Serbian and other Slav realms, nominally warlords, dynastic families and self-styled city-states among others; the neighboring principalities of Travunia and Rascia would in time join with Duklja to form the territory of sovereign Montenegro. The Ottoman Empire annexed the region in the 14th Century, and despite it receiving a considerably-greater level of autonomy than



Dejan Savicevic in the Rossoneri kit of AC Milan.

other regions under Turkish rule, it would not be another 300 years until the Montenegrins (as the region's denizens were now called) wrested free of the Ottoman yoke. The Principality of Montenegro was established afterward, and it due to the statesmanship of Prince(later King) Nicholas I that Montenegro finally gained sovereign recognition from the Ottomans and most of Europe in 1878. WWI saw the country side with the Allies (and Serbia in particular) against the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which eventually annexed Montenegro and dissolved the monarchy before the Allies incorporated it into Serbia at war's end. With the exception of a Montenegrin puppet-state run by the Italian Fascists (and then by the Nazis) during most of WWII, Montenegro would not again be an individual state in the 20th Century.

At WWII's end and the collapse of the Kingdom of Serbia/Yugoslavia, Montenegro was incorporated into the new communist Yugoslavia led by Marshal Josip Broz 'Tito'. Podgorica was renamed 'Titograd' as much out of the leader's personality-cult as recognition of the role Montenegrin partisans had played in the brutal guerrilla war against Nazis, Italians and radical Serbian Chetnik, and Montenegro was assigned constituent-republic status within Yugoslavia. Upon the end of Yugoslav communism and the break-up of the federation(at which time

Podgorica's name was restored) prior to the Balkan wars, Montenegro was joined into Serbia as 'Serbia and Montenegro', although the name 'Yugoslavia' remained in common use until the early Noughties. In 2006 a referendum on Montenegrin independence(in which 55% of the electorate voted in favour) was held, resulting in Montenegro joining the family of nations on June 3rd 2006, and in doing so ending the last vestige of the Yugoslav state that had existed since 1918.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

Upon joining UEFA and FIFA in late 2006/early 2007, Montenegro soon rocketed up the rankings, fast leaving behind the American Samoas and East Timors of the world by virtue of regular European competition; their debut international on 24th March 2007 ended in a 2-1 win over Hungary, and their debut WC qualifier the following year was spoiled by a last-minute equaliser from Bulgaria for a 2-all draw. Despite suffering a 4-0 defeat to Romania at this time, the Montenegrins overall gave a good account of themselves in their debut tournament qualifiers(finishing with 9 points alongside Cyprus, 6 clear of last-placed Georgia), scuppering fears they would be little better than the Liechtensteins and Luxembourgs. And to prove the point, they shocked Europe by finishing 2nd to England in their Euro 2012 qualifying group,



Just in case the GPS isn't working...

thus advancing to the final play-offs vs. the Czech Republic - only 5 years after joining the world football family, the Montenegrins were now 180 minutes away from their maiden major international tournament. Alas, the dream died there with the Czechs winning the first leg 2-0 and the last 1-0, but the Montenegrins had if nothing else proven beyond doubt they would never be one of the continent's easybeats, and very much on the same if not a higher level than some of their ex-Yugoslav neighbours.

BIG CLUBS

The national league is known as the Montenegrin First League, and the country's best-known club is FK Budu nost from Podgorica - during the Yugoslav era it played in the top-flight and was a twice-losing Cup finalist (1965 and 1977); in the joint-Serbian era it played in the Intertoto and UEFA Cups before independence, after which it has featured in the Champions League and Europa League qualifiers. Crosstown rivals FK Zeta also have considerable experience in Europe despite a barren trophy cabinet. Other clubs include FK Mladost, OFK Petrovac, OFK Grbalj, FK Rudar Pljevlja and FK Mogren.

REP YOUR COLORS

Nicknamed Hrabri sokoli 'The Brave Falcons', the Montenegrin

NT wears an all-red strip with gold trims(rather like Macedonia's traditional kit), the away is inverted but substitutes gold for white. As for the clubs, Budu nost wears a North Melbourne/Sheffield Wednesday-esque kit of blue/white stripes and blue shorts/socks; Zeta wears all-blue (away white), Mladost wears all-white with red socks (away inverted), Grbalj wears the red/blue/white template of the Serbian NT kit but with a lighter shade of blue, Petrovac wears an all-baby blue kit reminiscent of the San Marino NT, Rudar wears a hard shade of royal-blue whilst finally Mogren wears a yellow kit with royal-blue flanks, rather like the traditional kit of Italian side Chievo Verona.

MATCHWINNERS

Red Star Belgrade and AC Milan icon Dejan Savicevic is undoubtedly the greatest player ever of Montenegrin lineage, despite never playing for the country due to its then-status as part of Yugoslavia. Before embarking on his stellar career with Red Star(coinciding with the club's late '80s/early '90s golden era of 3 consecutive Yugoslav national titles, the 1991 European Cup and World Club Championship) and Milan, he came up through the youth ranks of FK Mladost (then known as OFK Titograd) before joining Budu nost, from where he made his way to the Yugoslav capital. Add to that his 56 caps/19 goals for Yugoslavia/Serbia&Montenegro and you get a sense of the winger/midfielder's prowess and footballing nous. Since retiring at the turn of the millennium he briefly assumed the reins of the Serbian/Montenegrin NT before the 2006 independence of his country, having served ever since as its national FA president.

The go-to man in the post-independence ear however is striker Mirko Vu ini - beginning his career with FK Sutjeska Nikši , he then moved on to Italian minnows Lecce(in the Serie A at the time) in 2000 and stayed 6 years for a return of 111 games and 34 goals; he was also capped thrice for Serbia/Montenegro at this time. His stint at capital powerhouse AS Roma was initially a loan stint, but despite a knee injury

that hampered his settling into his new club, the Giallorossi eventually bought him outright, deploying him as a winger out of deference to the iconic Francesco Totti, although Vu ini deputised out front whenever Totti was injured. Coinciding with his country's independence and membership of FIFA, Vu ini gradually earned his keep at Roma, going on to play 147 games and score 46 goals before leaving for Juventus last year - to date he has played 38 games and scored 11 goals for the Old Lady since arriving in Turin. In his international career for Montenegro he has so far been capped 30 times and scored 14 goals, most notably the nation's maiden one in the March 2007 friendly against Hungary.

The Brave Falcons already boast a sizeable horde of foreign-based talent, such as Marko Baša of French side Lille, the Red Star Belgrade duo of Milan Jovanovi (not to be confused with 2 Serbian namesakes) and Filip Kasalica, Rayo Vallecano's Andrija Delibaši and Fiorentina's Stefan Savi to name a few. Some of the recent call-ups to the Brave Falcons' squad ply their trade in particularly-distant locales, such as the Iranian-based duo of Darko Božovi (Zob-Ahan) and Radomir Đalovic of Isfahan giants Sepahan; and midfielder Marko Peković , who plies his trade for Thai club Buriram United (formerly Thai Provincial Electricity Authority).

SO WHAT NOW?

At present the Brave Falcons are contesting European WC Qualifying Group H, where they currently sit top...no mean feat considering the presence of Ukraine, Poland and reunited with England in this group. So far results have included double wins over San Marino (6-0 and 3-0) and a particularly vital win against the Ukraine - they next convene against Moldova next March, but their two pivotal clashes against England beckon later...if the Brave Falcons can bring their A-Game and then some against the Three Lions, a ticket to Brazil 2014 may well be in the offing!

All Nations Cup 2012



It was high feet against Darryl Roach (Chile) in this incident from the Albania v Chile Quarter-Final. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

ANC Enters Semi Final Stage

By Norm Edgar

The competition reached the quarter-final stage last weekend, where all the games were knockout and with the summer weather heating up. Three out of the four games played were very competitive with all teams having their opportunities to win and games going down to the wire with winning goals scored in the last few minutes.

The draw pitted Scotland against Somalia in the first game on Saturday. Somalia had drawn with Mauritius the previous Sunday to advance on goal difference of one goal over Mauritius. Scotland had

beaten Peru 4-0 also on the previous Sunday to finish top of their group. Scotland with the Webster brothers and Luke Sherbon in the team would prove to be a formidable team for Somalia to beat. Scotland started well and scored after 11 minutes through Matt Thomas. The two teams traded blows for the rest of the first half and into the second half with Somalia hitting the crossbar on 30 minutes and in no way playing second fiddle. In the 55th minute Somalia eventually equalised through Nick Sierra and in the next 30 minutes the game see-sawed one way and then the

other with Somalia the quicker and seemingly getting on top and Scotland hanging on. Scotland did take the lead again when Dan Sweeney scored for Scotland on 60 minutes but Nick Sierra scored his second goal on 70 minutes to equalise again for Somalia and then completed his hatrick on 80 minutes to give Somalia the lead and seemingly the win. However Scotland refused to give in and Luke Sherbon equalised again for Scotland on 80 minutes. With the game in its dying moments and Scotland attacking the Somali defence could not clear the ball out of the penalty area and lost posses-



Dean Piemonte (Chile) tries to thread his way between Albania's Benji Vagid (left) and Tim Mala Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

sion, the ball falling to Carl Recchia who scored to send the Scotland team into the semi-finals with a 4-3 win. The second game of the day saw Cyprus play Ireland who had beaten France 1-0 last Sunday. Chances fell to both sides early on with Ireland missing a gilt edged chance which went wide and both goal-keepers saving well from several opportunities. The deadlock was broken when Simon Kelly scored in the 31st minute. Cyprus replied on 38 minutes when Kemal Irdem scored the equaliser. Cyprus kept the pressure up and took the lead seven minutes into the second half when Mustafa Mustafa finished a good move on 52 minutes. Ireland were able to contain Cy-

prus but it took until the 79th minute, when James O'Sullivan scored to equalise. With time running out and tiredness taking hold of both sides in the hot weather Alan Kearney scored in the 89th minute to give Ireland the win and a place in the semi-finals. The early game on Sunday was another cliffhanger between Albania and Chile. The score at the halftime break was 1-1. A goal from Dean Piermonte for Chile who took the lead in the 29th minute was cancelled out by Rini Muriqi with a penalty right on half time. Daryl Roach proved to be the hero for Chile after halftime with three goals the first two in regular time in the 74th and 77th minute to take Chile to a 3-2 lead after Shane Rexhapi had scored from a second pen-

alty awarded to Albania who had led 2-1. The winner was decided by a golden goal in the second period of extra time from hatrick man Daryl Roach. The last game of the weekend was more clearcut. Italy dominated the early stages but Serbia gained a foothold halfway through the first half and led 2-0 at the break. Serbia consolidated in the second half to run out winners 4-1 with goals from Goran Zoric, Milos Lujic, Gotko Ponjevic and Vedran Tanasic. Junior Adilson De Melo scored a consolation goal for Italy.

The semi-finals will be played on Sunday 9th December at the Knox Regional Football Centre. Scotland are first up playing Ireland at 1pm followed by Chile and Serbia.

A TALE OF CHAMPIONS



In the latest in Copa Sudamericana for 2012, Argentina's Tigre managed a goalless draw to Sao Paulo in the first leg final on Thursday local time. The club tournament will decide a new champion next week in Sao Paulo with all odds for the Brazilian side to take the title commanded by Paulo Henrique Ganso, Jadson and Luis Fabiano. Also in the Chilean Clausura final first leg, Unión Española won 3-1 over Huachipato with a handy lead into the second leg.

FOURTEEN LONG YEARS

Peñarol in Uruguay, Tijuana in Mexico and Barcelona (Guayaquil) have been crowned in their respective domestic leagues. Vélez Sarsfield take out the Argentinian domestic title leaving Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru and Chile to decide its champions. Needless to say about the LA Galaxy who have also won the MLS Cup to end their respective competitions.

Ecuador witnessed an old giant wake up as Guayaquil's beloved Barcelona lifted the Serie A title.

The most popular of the country had finally done the lap of honour after fourteen long years. In fact, it was upon the full-time whistle of arch rivals Emelec vs. Deportivo Quito won by the visitors that sparked wild scenes of celebrations for the thousands of Barcelona fans out on the streets.

TRAGIC DEATH OF CALERO

The death of the former Colombia and Pachuca goalkeeper Miguel Calero died on Tuesday as a result of cerebral thrombosis. He was 41.

As well as representing his country at the 1998 FIFA World Cup France, he was a leading member of the Pachuca side that won ten Mexican titles between 2000 and 2011. The father of two children – Miguel Angel aged 20, and Juan Jose aged 14 – Calero was admitted to a Mexico City hospital on 25 November and was diagnosed as having a blood clot on the brain.

After showing signs of improvement over the next two days, his situation began to worsen and he was pronounced clinically brain dead on Monday following a second cerebral thrombosis. He was taken off life support at midday on Tuesday.

Miguel Calero not only represented with great honour the country of his birth, Colombia, but was also an influential player in his adopted country of Mexico.

Chanting songs and waving flags, more than 5,000 Pachuca



Ricardo Garecia given a standing ovation at Vélez Sarsfield.

fans made their way to the club's home ground to pay tribute to him at a wake, where his mother, wife, two sons, eight siblings and other family members gathered round the player's coffin. Capped 50 times by his country and a Copa America winner in 2001, Calero suffered a blood clot on his left arm in 2007 but recovered from it and played for Pachuca at the FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2008, returning to the competition two years later in UAE. He became the club's goal-keeping coach after retiring from the game in 2011.

Nicknamed "El Cóndor", Calero made his debut with Sporting Barranquilla before signing for Deportivo Cali in 1992. His fine performances there earned him a big-money move to Atlético Nacional six years later. He made the switch to Mexico in 2001, becoming Pachuca's first-choice keeper in a golden era in which they won four domestic trophies and six international ones.

Appearing in six Copa America tournaments with Los Cafeteros between 1991 and 2007, he was understudy to Oscar Cordoba when Colombia won the competition for the first and only time to date on home soil in 2001. He also figured in the Colombia squad at France 1998.

Still on Mexico, Chivas announced the sacking of legend Johan Cruyff as the club's technical director. Coach John van 't Schip however survived the axing and remains with the top job for next season's Clausura championship. And on the Apertura, the first-leg 2-0 victory at Toluca's Estadio Nemesio Diez gave the Xolos a 4-1 advantage in the two-game championship series and an unfathomable piece of history. It is the quickest any team has won the title after gaining promotion to the first division (the Xolos did just 19 months ago).

And to think: a year ago, the Xolos were floundering at the bottom of the 18-team league and headed for immediate relegation back to the second division.

Instead, they hired Argentine coach Antonio Mohamed and qualified for the play-offs of the Clausura season last spring. They finished the most recent Apertura season tied for first with Toluca, getting the No. 2 seed in the eight-team playoffs only because of an inferior goal differential. Beating Japan-bound Monterrey in the quarter finals, then dramatically eliminating León in the semis after losing the first leg 2-0 confirmed its winning streak. In the 70th minute, Raul Arce sent a free kick curling over a six-man defensive wall that slammed off the left post. The ball caromed into the goal mouth, and Richard Ruiz was there to slide it under Toluca goalkeeper Alfredo Talavera.

A minute later, it was 2-0 and Riascos was etched into Mexican finals lore. Tijuana left back Edgar Castillo fed Fidel Martinez, who fed a streaking Riascos, who scored with his left foot after sending Talavera the wrong direction from a full-speed stepover with his right. PEÑAROL WIN IN URUGUAY For most "fútbol" clubs across Latin America and Uruguay especially, the toughest contests take place on Sundays with occasional cross-town rivalries or "super clásicos" generating the most pre-match hype and post-match scrutiny.

After lifting their Uruguayan championship title last weekend however, for one of Montevideo's two most popular clubs, the toughest battle has taken place off the field during the week in the local legislature. At issue are the efforts by Club Atlético Peñarol to build a new 40,000-seat stadium on the outskirts of Montevideo just north of



Peñarol captain Darío Rodríguez lift the Uruguayan title.

the International Airport in Carrasco.

A lobbying effort that began last year to commemorate the club's 120th anniversary met with strong opposition from local residents who opposed the new stadium on the grounds that the land in question was zoned for rural use. After months of delays, the government ruled in favor of Peñarol last week allowing the stadium site to be re-zoned from "rural" to "potentially urban, non-residential."

VELEZ CAMPEÓN

In Argentina's Inicial championship, Vélez Sarsfield has all but secured their title as well. Two goals from Fabián Muñoz helped Newell's Old Boys to a 3-0 win over Atlético Rafaela in the penultimate round of the Argentina Apertura on Monday. Muñoz scored two minutes into the first half and again two minutes into the second, before Ignacio Scocco wrapped up the scoring five minutes from time. The result lifted Newell's to third in the table, five points behind Vélez Sarsfield who sealed the Apertura title on the weekend.

In the other game, two goals in the last 10 minutes from substitute Carlos Auzqui gave Estudiantes de La Plata a 2-0 win over San Martín San Juan. Vélez moved on to 38 points with one round remaining, giving it an insurmountable lead. Its closest rival Lanús fell 1-0 last Sunday to River Plate, leaving it five points behind. Belgrano is also five off

the pace.

With the game in doubt after the first half, Ferreyra ended the uncertainty with goals in the 48th minute and 84th. Ricardo Gareca said: "Winning the championship at home means everything to us." In other results last Sunday, Belgrano defeated Tigre 1-0, Arsenal downed Boca Juniors 1-0, and San Lorenzo defeated Independiente 2-1. Despite the loss, Boca Juniors qualified for the Copa Libertadores. Boca was the runner-up last season.

SAMPAOLI CONFIRMED

Chile has named Argentinean Jorge Sampaoli its new manager, as the country tries to turn around its World Cup qualifying campaign.

Chile parted ways with Claudio Borghi last month with the country sixth in the South American qualifying group, and Sampaoli will be asked to lift the nation into the top four to guarantee a spot in Brazil in 2014. Fifth place could also advance to the World Cup, but will play the fifth place team from Asia in a two-game playoff to qualify. Despite being sixth, Chile is out of fourth place just on goal differential. The 52-year-old Sampaoli stepped down as coach of a successful Chilean club Universidad de Chile to take the role with the national team.

GALAXY WIN

Major League Soccer has officially put the 2012 season to bed. In a rematch of last year's finals,

the Los Angeles Galaxy beat the Houston Dynamos 3-1 after scoring all three of their goals in the second half, two of which were penalty kicks.

The game, of course, was a fitting cap to David Beckham's career, which is all anyone can talk about when it comes to soccer. In America, we're still waiting for a transcendent star to break the glass ceiling of soccer's appeal to the masses. Many thought it would be Beckham, but while plenty are finding reason to celebrate in his going out on top, there have been rough patches in his MLS career as well.



Becks signed off with an emotional win in the US



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London Calling



By Samuel Collins

It's December 12th, 2009. League one side Yeovil Town are in action at home against Norwich City. Huish Park is only half-full - 4,964 fans are in the Somerset-based stadium - but it seemingly doesn't matter, struggling Yeovil are on course for their first win in five games, 3-2 up in stoppage time. Then, drama. Gary Doherty turns in Russell Martin's 94th minute shot. 3-3. The point keeps Paul Lambert's side third in England's third tier. They wouldn't know it just yet, but that late, late goal was about to transform the next three years.

Eight successive wins followed that draw - 18 victories in the remaining 25 league fixtures in total - and Norwich were crowned Champions. After just a solitary season outside of the Championship - the second tier of English football - they were back, but they wouldn't be there long. Lambert's men were at it again. Despite sitting seventh in November, the Canaries hit exceptional form in the new year and fly up the table. Five wins in the final eight games see Norwich secure 2nd place, four points behind winners Queens Park Rangers. They had done it. They'd reached the big time, the Premier League. Norwich were set for their first top-flight campaign since 2004-05, when they were ruthlessly demoted, finishing 19th and conceding 77 times. The 2011/12 season would be the Norfolk side's fifth spell as a Premier League team. They were the

The rise and rise of the Canaries



Norwich City's Gary Doherty celebrates with teammates after clinching promotion last season

first side since Manchester City in 2000 to manage back-to-back promotions to the top-tier.

"This achievement has been colossal, an absolute miracle," Lambert joyously told reporters last summer, but, despite the celebrations, you always sensed the Scot wouldn't get carried away. When asked which champagne he would be drinking, the former Celtic midfielder simply replied: "We've got a long coach journey home." His focus was already on pre-season, already on Norwich's new selection of opponents.

Meticulous preparation doesn't always result in perfection, though, and Norwich endured a tough start. Without a win in the opening four games (two points from twelve), anyone would have forgiven Lambert for thinking relegation was inevitable, even in September, but again, the Canaries responded. Consecutive wins against Bolton and Sunderland set the stage for another remarkable campaign. At the turn of the year, the side sat 10th, and, a

last day win against Aston Villa sees Norwich land 12th place, but it was the Villans who would soon dampen spirits around Carrow Road.

In June, Villa appointed Lambert, and, despite the 43-year old's incredible success in East Anglia, the supporters were unhappy with their former coach. The situation was even more grim considering Grant Holt, the club's leading scorer, had handed in a transfer request a month earlier. Holt stayed, and a new manager was quickly brought in.

Chris Hughton arrived on a three-year deal after successful stints with Newcastle (2009-10) and Birmingham (11-12). Like with Lambert, Norwich had a manager who was relatively inexperienced, particularly at the top level. Hughton admitted upon his arrival that his predecessor's achievements were "a hard act to follow", but after an inexplicable sacking at Newcastle, the former Republic of Ireland international had the chance to show Magpies' owner

Mike Ashley he was wrong to dismiss him. It didn't begin as planned. After seven games this season, Norwich hadn't tasted a victory. Four defeats, seventeen goals conceded, Hughton's task of replacing Lambert couldn't have started worse. Had Canaries' co-owner and female entrepreneur Delia Smith axed the ex-Spurs assistant, few would have battered an eyelid. It was expected. But there was no rash decision, Smith and the board were patient. And it's paid off.

Fast forward two months, and Norwich are in that familiar position again - twelfth. Sunday evening's win against Sunderland made it eight games without a loss in the Premier League, and impressively, Hughton's men have let in just four goals during that time. "We were excellent," the manager said post-match on the weekend, "It's difficult to sustain the same level over 90 minutes, particularly with it being the third game in a week." Indeed. The fact it was the club's third game in eight days made the feat even more impressive.

A tough schedule over the festive period - Chelsea, Man City, Tottenham and Liverpool - lies ahead, but for now, Norwich are seven points clear of the relegation zone, and one of the country's form sides. Arsenal and Manchester United have already been beaten at Carrow Road, while Spurs were seen off by Hughton's side in the league cup - a competition the club still reside in.

Hughton hasn't done better or worse than Lambert did last year, he's done exactly the same. Norwich have the same amount of points - 19 - after 15 games that they had last season, yet somehow, you feel the current team has more of a momentum about them. It may be some time before Norwich City are seen in league action at Husih Park again.

Champions League Wrap

Group A wrap: PSG seal top spot

Paris Saint-Germain saw off the challenge of Porto as they recorded a 2-1 victory which saw them top Group A in the Champions League. In the other Group A game, Dinamo Zagreb earned a point in a 1-1 draw at home to Dynamo Kyiv after their clash at the Stadion Maksimir was delayed due to snow.

Ivan Krstanovic's last-minute penalty cancelled out Andriy Yarmolenko's opener to earn the Croats their first point.

Group B wrap: Greeks shock Arsenal

Olympiakos came from behind to beat Arsenal in Piraeus, as the Gunners finished runners-up in Group B behind Schalke. Thomas Rosicky had put the away side into the lead before second-half goals from Giannis Maniatis and Kostas Mitroglou earned the Greek side a surprise 2-1 victory. Schalke finished as winners of Group B after a Benedikt Howedes goal earned a 1-1 draw with Montpellier.

Group C wrap: Malaga deny Anderlecht

Malaga captain Duda struck either side of half-time as Anderlecht were denied a spot in the Europa League after a 2-2 draw. Duda twice put the La Liga side ahead at Estadio La Rosaleda as Anderlecht finished bottom of Group C, behind Malaga, AC Milan and Zenit St Petersburg. In Italy, a goal from Danny was enough to lead Zenit St Petersburg to a famous 1-0 victory over AC Milan and book the Russian champions' place in the Europa League.

Group D wrap: Lacklustre City bow out

Manchester City's underwhelming Champions League campaign ended with a lacklustre 1-0 defeat at Borussia Dortmund. Julian Schieber's second-half finish from close range was enough to see off the visitors, with the German side enjoying the better of the scoring chances. Meanwhile, at the Santiago Bernabeu, Real Madrid thrashed Ajax 4-1. Cristiano Ronaldo opened the scoring in the 13th minute after some good

work from Karim Benzema, before Jose Callejon doubled the hosts' lead at the half-hour mark.

Kaka then made it three after the break, only for Derk Boerrigter to peg one back after 60 minutes. However, Callejon restored Madrid's three-goal lead in the closing minutes.

Group E wrap: Juve seal top spot, Chelsea eliminated

Juventus clinched top spot in Group E with a 1-0 win at Shakhtar Donetsk, while defending champions Chelsea bowed out despite winning 6-1.

Group F wrap: Bayern top group

Bayern Munich sealed top spot in Group F with a 4-1 victory over BATE Borisov at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday. Goals from Mario Gomez, Thomas Mueller, Xherdan Shaqiri and David Alaba gave the Bavarians revenge for their defeat in Belarus in October, despite Jerome Boateng seeing red just five minutes into the second half.

Group G wrap: Celtic advance, Messi hurt

Celtic advanced to the knockout stages of the Champions League, while Lionel Messi was injured in Barcelona's 0-0 draw against Benfica. A first-half strike from Gary Hooper and a second-half Kris Commons penalty secured Celtic's 2-1 win over Spartak Moscow after a tense night of football in Glasgow. Benfica failed to ensure it was they who followed Barcelona into the last 16 of the Champions League as the two sides played out a 0-0 draw at Camp Nou. In a largely uninspiring game, Argentine superstar Lionel Messi, who began on the bench, endured a nightmare as he left the field with a knee injury.

Group H wrap: Galatasaray squeeze through

Galatasaray booked their place in the knockout stages of the Champions League with a 2-1 win at Braga.

Balkan Wrap

By Alex Milic

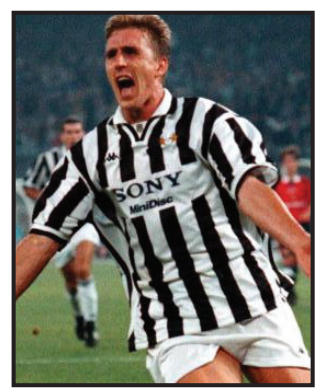
Croatian football celebrate its 100th anniversary with UEFA President Michel Platini a guest of honor at the festivities in Zagreb, which were also attended by some of the country's greatest footballers.

Platini says, "The Croatian FA is dynamic, and the names of the best Croatian players playing for top European clubs continue to echo in the world of football."

Amongst the attendees at the centenary were Croatian football greats Alen Boksi , Robert Jarni, Miroslav Blazevi and Igor Stimac.

Platini says, "Croatian football is a symbol of national identity. The national association has achieved excellent results in major competitions. I wish Croatian football every success in the future."

The Croatian Football Federation (HNS) was founded on 13 July 1912 as a football section of the Croatian Sports Association. Following the break-up of Yugoslavia, Croatia became independent in 1991. The HNS renewed its membership of the world football body FIFA in July 1992 before joining UEFA in June 1993.



Aleks Boskic



Miroslav Blazenic

The association's greatest success in recent times was to win the bronze medal at the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France. The Golden Boot in that tournament was won by Davor Šuker, who was chosen as the best Croatian player in the last 50 years to mark UEFA's Jubilee in 2004, and who is now the HNS president.



The legendary Stjepan Bobek










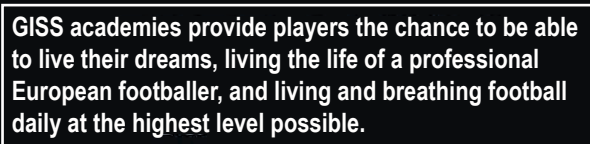
Davor Suker

Davor Suker says, "We are very proud on our 100th birthday. I am very happy that there are so many important people at our big celebration. Football is a sport that gathers people together, irrespective of gender, race, political or religious belonging. We have excellent relations with UEFA, and we appreciate UE-

FA's support in our new football projects in Croatia."

HNS executive president Damir Vrbanovi thanked Platini and other football dignitaries for attending the anniversary event. "We are proud to have them here," he said. "It is also a sign of respect to the Croatian Football Federation and its position in European and world football."







EPL

Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

Manchester Duo break Away

It was always going to happen eventually. So we, as fans, shouldn't be shocked that it did. At the start of the season though, we probably thought otherwise. Given Chelsea's rampart start, Arsenal looking like they could defend and even Tottenham playing decent football, there was a hint that there could be different scent to the season this year.

That was folly of course. Favou-rites since the start of the season, the Manchester clubs have now begun to march forward, in what is becoming a two-horse race for the title.

That's not to say that the league's over and it's the trophy is going to head to Manchester. There are still 23 matches to go; a lot of foot-ball for other teams to challenge the duo. But given the circum-stances, its unlikely.

Chelsea hasn't won in the last seven games. The sacking of Ro-berto Di Matteo and the hiring of hated, former Liverpool figure Rafael Benitez hasn't gone down to well with the fans, and even to some degree, the players.

When questioned, following the loss to West Ham, about whether or not his position was safe, he re-plied: "No, I am not 100 per cent. We didn't win today - that is the main thing". There are now re-ports that former manager Avram



Red Devil Javier Hernandez is hitting his straps once again.

Grant could be back in the club in some sort of "consultative posi-tion". Could there a club more in a crisis right now than Chelsea?

You might just have to cross over to the other side of London to see. Arsenal have won one game in their last six and for lack of the better word, have been dreadful. Defensively, they are shambolic and up front there is no structure whatsoever, not to mention the lack for the fighting spirit and con-fidence. As such, the guillotine is out for Arsene Wenger's head in what is his worst start to a season in 16 years.

With Gunner fans growing rest-less by the match-day, the new "Black Scarf Movement" is pro-testing making their voices heard about running of the club. It's go-ing to get very messy for Wenger in the coming months. His state-ment that the Gunners could still challenge for the title was pure idiocy and falsehood: merely, propaganda of words to calm hot-headed fans.

And what of Tottenham? Well, for many it was a long shot for Spurs to actually challenge for the title. Especially given the arrival of


Chairman David Levy's new 'proj-ect' lead by Portuguese manager Andre Villas-Boas. Considering they lost a host of players from the Harry Redknapp era (Van der Vaart, Luka Modric, the retire-ment of Ledley King), Spurs are doing better than expected.

Yet new boys, Clint Dempsey, Moussa Dembele, Jan Vertongh-en and goalkeeper, Hugo Llori are struggling to settle in at White Hart Lane. This new project will take time, but Tottenham have a sparkling future ahead. However, their biggest concern is for them to keep their stars – or maybe, cur-rently their "star" – Gareth Bale.

The latest rumours indicate that Bale was open to the possibly of a move overseas, quoting: "It would be nice to experience other leagues and other cultures. I'm not afraid to go abroad". Keeping their stars and adding a few world-class players, Tottenham will have another interesting summer trans-fer window coming up.

EPL Preview.
And that of course brings us to this season's most tantalising clash. Three points sepa-

ENGLAND EPL



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Manchester United	15	12	0	3	37	21	+16	36	WWWLW
2 Manchester City	15	9	6	0	28	11	+17	33	DWDWW
3 Chelsea	15	7	5	3	25	16	+9	26	LDDLD
4 Tottenham Hotspur	15	8	2	5	28	23	+5	26	WWWLL
5 WBA	15	8	2	5	24	19	+5	26	LLWWW
6 Everton	15	5	8	2	25	19	+6	23	DDDLW
7 Swansea City	15	6	5	4	23	17	+6	23	WWDWD
8 West Ham United	15	6	4	5	19	17	+2	22	WLLDW
9 Stoke City	15	5	7	3	14	12	+2	22	WWWDW
10 Arsenal	15	5	6	4	24	16	+8	21	LDDWD
11 Liverpool	15	4	7	4	19	18	+1	19	WLDWD
12 Norwich City	15	4	7	4	13	21	-8	19	WDDWD
13 Fulham	15	4	5	6	25	26	-1	17	LDLLD
14 Newcastle United	15	4	5	6	17	21	-4	17	WLLLL
15 Aston Villa	15	3	5	7	12	23	-11	14	DWDLL
16 Wigan Athletic	15	4	2	9	15	28	-13	14	LLWLL
17 Sunderland	14	2	7	5	13	18	-5	13	LDLWL
18 Southampton	15	3	3	9	21	32	-11	12	LDWW D
19 Reading	14	1	6	7	19	27	-8	9	LLLWD
20 QPR	15	0	6	9	11	27	-16	6	DDLLL

rate them; and by the end of the weekend, it could still be a three point or six point gap. Or it could be level. And to top it all off, this is a derby: of last season's champions and its runners-up.

That's right, round sixteen of the Premier League, will play host to the Manchester derby: champions City versus their eternal rival Unit-ed at Old Trafford. Sir Alex Fer-guson versus Roberto Mancini. Robin Van Persie versus Vincent Kompany. Sergio Aguero versus David De Gea. The list and match-ups go on and on.

This time though, this match might prove a little different. Last season, City were rolling high; dismantling teams at will, scoring goals for fun. They were on top of the table and confidence was at a high. United were on the same wavelength, keeping up with the Citizens. Whatever Mancini's men did, Ferguson's did.

So when the first Manchester der-by came around – everyone, and I mean everyone, was stunned by its final result. 6-1 to City. But back then; it was different City, a differ-ent United.

City hasn't been the force they should be this season. They re-main undefeated in the league, and while there are growing whis-pers that they could emulate Arse-nal's 2004 Invincibles side, it's a bit of long shot.

Whether it's because of the he-roics of last season, City is strug-gling to blow away teams. They lack the intensity, already drawing six games and looking tired. Yes, there have been numerous great escapes so far, scoring in the final minutes of games that highlight their hunger and determination to play to the final whistle but City shouldn't be in this state. They should be putting teams to the sword.



It could be because of City's misfiring forwards; Mancini's constant rotation of star players or maybe Mancini has learnt that the season is a not a sprint, but a marathon.

On the red side, Sir Alex Fergu-son said it at the start of the sea-son that his quartet of strikers: Van Persie, Rooney, Hernandez and Welbeck were the best selec-tion since his United's famous treble winning season of 1999. He

Latest Results	This Week
West Ham Utd 3 - 1 Chelsea	Arsenal v WBA
Arsenal 0 - 2 Swansea City	Aston Villa v Stoke City
Fulham 0 - 3 Tottenham	Southampton v Reading
Liverpool 1 - 0 Southampton	Sunderland v Chelsea
Man City 1 - 1 Everton	Swansea City v Norwich City
QPR 1 - 1 Aston Villa	Wigan Athletic v QPR
WBA 0 - 1 Stoke City	Man City v Man Utd
Reading 3 - 4 Man Utd	Everton v Tottenham Hotspur
Norwich City 2 - 1 Sunderland	West Ham Utd v Liverpool
Newcastle Utd 3 - 0 Wigan	Fulham v Newcastle Utd

One To Watch This Weekend...
Can Chelsea finally grab some points under the Benitez reign? This could be there week, as they face lowly and crumbling Sunderland, who have been a bore this season. Martin O'Neill's reign as coach could be nearing its end. Can his boys save him for another week?

London Eye



By Robert Davis

Two draws in his first two games, Harry Redknapp's Queens Park Rangers still remain without a win this season. Already though, improvements are starting to creep in at Loftus Road as the club that sit bottom of the Premier League try to ban-ish the memory of an ill-fated Mark Hughes reign.

To say that Redknapp knows a thing or two about rejuvenating a lifeless team is an understatement. He has taken over a team fighting relegation in the the top flight a total of three times before, with only one of those previous occasions resulting in the drop for Southampton on the final day of the season after the now infamous 'Survival Sunday'.

In the case of Portsmouth and Tottenham Hotspur though, Redknapp was an instant success, taking Portsmouth away from the danger zone after a miracu-lous run of results towards the end of the season in his second spell at the club. Whilst more recently at Spurs, he took over a deflated side from Juande Ra-mos in 2008 and transformed the

North London club into title con-tenders and Champions League hopefuls within a year.

Can he do it once again though? The 65-year-old still looks hun-gry for success and on paper, the QPR 'project' is a perfect one for someone like Redknapp.

At the risk of calling him a 'wheeler-dealer', he'll be given the full support from owner Tony Fernandes in the January trans-fer window to search far and wide for players, as big names are already linked with a move to London already.

The changes that have been made already prove what Red-knapp is looking for and shows what the R's have been miss-ing this season under Hughes. Draws against Sunderland and Aston Villa may not get heads turning, but it is stabilising a very rocky ship as the likes of Clint Hill and Shaun Derry have been reinstated to the squad to add some experience and steel to the side.

Jamie Mackie has started both of the previous two games in a much more central position. His hard work is well documented but it's his ability on the ball and to score important goals that is overlooked frequently though. The former Plymouth Argyle striker under Hughes was forced to play out wide and was very much a bit part player. What Mackie can do is give the abun-dance of luxury players at QPR much more time on the ball to impact the game. Adel Taarabt,



Back in Business: Harry signs a three-year deal with QPR.

Harry Houdini To The Rescue

Junior Hoilett and Shaun Wright-Phillips will flourish more with Mackie in the side other than someone like Djibril Cisse, who is an out and out striker. In a con-fident, winning side, Cisse can flourish. In a side battling relega-tion, the Frenchman is just too inconsistent.

The defensive frailties at Lof-tus Road is the first thing that Redknapp will be looking to solidify and has stuck with the same back four for his first two games in charge. Hill and Ryan Nelson have been chosen in the centre of defence in a typically

hard working, no nonsense part-nership. Crucially though, he's moved Cameroon international Stéphane Mbia into the holding midfield role alongside Samba Diakité to add another line of cover to a leaky back line.

With a distinct lack of defensive options in the full-back positions, the two holding midfield roles are crucial for Rangers to pro-vide extra help when the likes of Armand Traoré, José Bosingwa or Fábio typically go galavanting forward.

The creative football that Red-knapp likes to play goes hand

in hand with Fernandes' outlook for the future at QPR. So it can be argued that the players the for-mer West Ham United manager already has at his disposal could give the bottom side a good chance of being back in touch with teams around them by the turn of the new year.

Esteban Granero is someone that Redknapp will love to work with and someone who he can build his team around. Much like he did with Luka Modric at Spurs and Niko Kranjcar at Portsmouth, Granero can be the

quality in front of the steel in midfield to open up the opposi-tion and pick out passes that oth-ers may not see.

It remains to be seen how for-ward thinking the new Hoops boss wants to be in the coming weeks. Granero and Taarabt are certainly two players that a team of QPR's size can be built around, yet with a mandate of conceding less goals clearly on Redknapp's mind, can he afford to play both in the same starting eleven?

There is no doubt that Rang-ers have struck gold by getting Redknapp on board. It would be a struggle to find anyone better to take over a job of such magni-tude at Loftus Road and to have someone who was universally wanted by many fans to take the England job before the Europe-an Championships can only be a huge positive.

His ability to get the best out of players and his excellent man-agement skills have been a key element to Redknapp's suc-cess throughout his career. With a run of winnable games on the horizon, starting with Wigan Athletic next Saturday, fans will really start to see the kind of impact Redknapp can have on a club.

So whether we see him giving an interview out of a car window on transfer deadline day or trying to cram as many football clichés in one post match interview as pos-sible, it certainly is good to have Harry Redknapp back where he belongs, managing in the top flight of English football.



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CROATIA 1.HNL																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>							
1 Dinamo Zagreb	18	13	2	3	39	14	+25	41	W	L	W	L	W			
2 Rijeka	18	9	4	5	28	23	+5	31	D	W	W	L	W			
3 Hajduk Split	18	8	6	4	26	14	+12	30	D	D	D	W	W			
4 Split	18	9	3	6	28	21	+7	30	W	L	L	W	D			
5 Slaven Koprnivica	18	9	3	6	28	26	+2	30	W	L	W	L	D			
6 Lokomotiva	18	8	5	5	26	21	+5	29	L	W	D	W	W			
7 Osijek	18	5	8	5	19	17	+2	23	L	D	L	D	L			
8 Istra 1961	18	5	5	8	16	20	-4	20	D	L	L	W	L			
9 Inter Zaprešić	18	4	7	7	21	24	-3	19	L	L	W	D	D			
10 Cibalia	18	4	4	10	16	30	-14	16	D	L	W	L	D			
11 Zadar	18	3	5	10	19	36	-17	14	D	W	L	W	L			
12 Zagreb	18	3	4	11	10	30	-20	13	D	W	L	L	L			

GERMANY Bundesliga																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>							
1 Bayern München	15	12	2	1	41	6	+35	38	D	W	W	D	W			
2 Bayer Leverkusen	15	9	3	3	28	19	+9	30	W	W	W	W	L			
3 Borussia Dortmund	15	7	6	2	30	16	+14	27	D	D	W	W	W			
4 Schalke 04	15	7	4	4	25	19	+6	25	D	L	D	L	W			
5 Eintracht Fran...	15	7	3	5	27	26	+1	24	L	L	D	W	L			
6 Mainz 05	15	7	2	6	21	18	+3	23	W	L	L	W	W			
7 Stuttgart	15	6	4	5	17	24	-7	22	W	W	L	W	L			
8 Werder Bremen	15	6	3	6	26	24	+2	21	W	L	D	W	L			
9 Hamburger SV	15	6	3	6	16	18	-2	21	D	W	L	W	D			
10 Borussia M'gla...	15	5	6	4	22	25	-3	21	D	W	D	L	W			
11 Freiburg	15	5	5	5	20	17	+3	20	D	L	W	W	D			
12 Hannover 96	15	6	2	7	28	27	+1	20	L	W	L	L	W			
13 Fortuna Düsseldorf	15	4	6	5	18	19	-1	18	D	W	D	L	D			
14 Nürnberg	15	4	4	7	14	21	-7	16	L	W	D	D	L			
15 Wolfsburg	15	4	4	7	14	23	-9	16	D	L	D	W	W			
16 Hoffenheim	15	3	3	9	22	36	-14	12	L	L	L	L	D			
17 Augsburg	15	1	5	9	11	26	-15	8	D	L	D	L	L			
18 Greuther Fürth	15	1	5	9	10	26	-16	8	L	D	L	L	L			

THE CHAMPIONSHIP																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>							
1 Cardiff City	20	13	2	5	38	25	+13	41	W	D	W	W	W			
2 Crystal Palace	20	12	4	4	39	24	+15	40	W	D	L	W	W			
3 Leicester City	20	11	3	6	35	18	+17	36	W	L	W	W	D			
4 Middlesbrough	20	11	2	7	34	27	+7	35	L	L	W	L	L			
5 Hull City	20	11	2	7	29	25	+4	35	W	D	L	W	L			
6 Watford	20	10	3	7	37	28	+9	33	W	D	W	W	W			
7 Millwall	20	9	6	5	33	26	+7	33	D	W	W	W	W			
8 Brighton & Hov...	20	8	7	5	27	19	+8	31	L	W	D	W	D			
9 Blackburn Rovers	20	7	8	5	28	25	+3	29	D	L	L	W	D			
10 Nottingham Forest	20	7	8	5	28	26	+2	29	L	L	W	W	D			
11 Leeds United	20	8	5	7	30	32	-2	29	W	W	W	L	L			
12 Blackpool	20	7	7	6	35	29	+6	28	W	D	D	D	D			
13 Charlton Athletic	20	7	7	6	26	24	+2	28	D	W	D	W	W			
14 Burnley	20	8	4	8	33	34	-1	28	D	D	W	L	L			
15 Huddersfield Town	20	8	4	8	26	31	-5	28	L	D	L	D	W			
16 Derby County	20	7	6	7	30	31	-1	27	L	D	W	L	L			
17 Wolverhampton ...	20	7	4	9	28	27	+1	25	L	W	L	L	D			
18 Bolton Wanderers	20	6	7	7	28	30	-2	25	L	W	D	D	D			
19 Birmingham City	20	6	6	8	26	32	-6	24	L	W	D	L	D			
20 Ipswich Town	20	5	5	10	19	41	-22	20	W	W	D	L	W			
21 Barnsley	20	4	5	11	19	32	-13	17	L	D	L	D	L			
22 Bristol City	20	4	3	13	29	41	-12	15	L	L	W	D	L			
23 Sheffield Wedn...	20	4	3	13	22	37	-15	15	L	L	L	L	L			
24 Peterborough U...	20	4	1	15	21	36	-15	13	L	D	L	L	L			

Greece Super League																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>							
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	13	11	2	0	31	7	+24	35	W	D	W	W	W			
2 PAOK	13	7	4	2	17	8	+9	25	D	D	L	W	W			
3 Asteras Tripolis	13	7	3	3	18	7	+11	24	D	W	W	L	W			
4 Atromitos	13	5	6	2	11	9	+2	21	D	W	L	W	W			
5 Panionios	13	7	0	6	16	14	+2	21	L	L	W	L	L			
6 Panathinaikos	13	5	6	2	14	10	+4	19	W	L	W	D	W			
7 PAS Giannina	13	5	3	5	12	11	+1	18	L	W	W	W	L			
8 Levadiakos	13	5	3	5	10	11	-1	18	W	W	W	W	L			
9 Platanias	13	4	3	6	13	17	-4	15	L	W	L	L	D			
10 OFI	13	3	5	5	12	15	-3	14	L	D	W	L	L			
11 Panthrakikos	13	4	2	7	13	16	-3	14	D	W	D	W	L			
12 Kerkyra	13	2	6	5	7	15	-8	12	L	D	L	D	D			
13 Xanthi	13	2	5	6	7	16	-9	11	D	L	D	L	W			
14 AEK Athens	13	3	2	8	10	15	-5	11	W	L	W	L	L			
15 Aris	13	2	5	6	11	21	-10	11	D	L	L	L	W			
16 Veria	13	2	5	6	7	17	-10	11	D	D	L	L	L			

...Results...Results...Results....Results....Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...

THE CHAMPIONSHIP	Accrington Stanley 3 - 3 Oxford United Coventry City 2 - 1 Morecambe Fleetwood Town 2 - 3 Aldershot Town Crawley Town 3 - 0 Chelmsford City nfo Sheffield United 2 - 1 Port Vale Milton Keynes Dons 2 - 1 AFC Wimbledon Alfreton Town 2 - 4 Leyton Orient Cheltenham Town 1 - 1 Hereford United
CROATIA	Dinamo Zagreb 1 - 0 Lokomotiva Istra 1961 1 - 1 Zadar Cibalia 1 - 1 Zagreb Slaven Koprnivica 2 - 0 Osijek Hajduk Split 1 - 1 Rijeka
ENGLISH FA CUP	Bradford City 1 - 1 Brentford Lincoln City 3 - 3 Mansfield Town Harrogate Town 1 - 1 Hastings United Preston North End 2 - 0 Gillingham Bury 1 - 1 Southend United Carlisle United 1 - 3 AFC Bournemouth Crewe Alexandra 0 - 1 Burton Albion Luton Town 2 - 1 Dorchester Town Oldham Athletic 3 - 1 Doncaster Rovers Tranmere Rovers 2 - 1 Chesterfield Rotherham United 1 - 1 Notts County

GERMANY	Fortuna Düsseldorf 4 - 0 Eintracht Fran... Schalke 04 1 - 1 Borussia M'gla... Bayer Leverkusen 1 - 0 Nürnberg Mainz 05 2 - 1 Hannover 96 Augsburg 1 - 1 Freiburg Greuther Fürth 0 - 1 Stuttgart Bayern München 1 - 1 Borussia Dortmund Hoffenheim 1 - 4 Werder Bremen Wolfsburg 1 - 1 Hamburger SV
GREECE	Xanthi 1 - 1 Asteras Tripolis Aris 1 - 1 Atromitos Olympiakos Piraeus 2 - 1 Platanias OFI 1 - 1 Panthrakikos Veria 0 - 0 PAOK Levadiakos 2 - 0 Kerkyra Panionios 1 - 2 Panathinaikos AEK Athens 2 - 1 PAS Giannina
HOLLAND	PEC Zwolle 0 - 0 VVV Twente 2 - 0 ADO Den Haag Feyenoord 2 - 0 RKC Waalwijk Willem II 3 - 1 Heerenveen
SCOTLAND - FA CUP	Ross County 3 - 3 Inverness CT Aberdeen 1 - 1 Motherwell Raith Rovers 2 - 1 Deveronvale Celtic 1 - 1 Arbroath Forfar Athletic 2 - 1 Ayr United Kilmarnock 2 - 1 Queen of the South Livingston 0 - 2 Dundee Partick Thistle 0 - 1 Dunfermline St. Mirren 2 - 0 Brechin City Stenhousemuir 0 - 1 Falkirk

PORTUGAL	Beira-Mar 2 - 2 Vitória Guimarães Benfica 2 - 0 Olhanense Vitória Setúbal 3 - 5 Rio Ave Nacional 1 - 0 Estoril Académica 2 - 2 Gil Vicente Sporting Braga 0 - 2 Porto Moreirense 2 - 2 Sporting CP Paços de Ferreira 2 - 2 Marítimo
SERBIA	Novi Pazar 0 - 2 Hajduk Kula Radnički Niš 1 - 1 Rad Beograd Radnički 1923 ... 1 - 2 Javor Ivanjica Smederevo 0 - 1 Sloboda Užice Spartak Subotica 2 - 2 Partizan BSK Borča 0 - 2 OFK Beograd Donji Srem 0 - 2 Jagodina Crvena Zvezda 0 - 3 Vojvodina
TURKEY	Galatasaray 1 - 1 Gaziantepspor Karabükspor 0 - 1 Elazığspor Akhisar Beledi... 2 - 2 Bursaspor Orduspor 1 - 2 Beşiktaş İstanbul BB 2 - 0 Sivasspor Antalyaspor 1 - 0 Mersin İdmanyurdu Kayserispor 1 - 1 Fenerbahçe Eskişehirspor 2 - 2 Kasımpaşa Gençlerbirliği 0 - 4 Trabzonspor

One Game At A Time

France	Toulouse v Bastia PSG v Evian TG Nancy v Valenciennes Troyes v Nice Sochaux v Lille Montpellier v Ajaccio Rennes v Brest Reims v Bordeaux Olympique Mars... v Lorient Saint-Etienne v Olympique Lyonnais
Germany	Hamburger SV v Hoffenheim Borussia Dortmund v Wolfsburg Stuttgart v Schalke 04 Nürnberg v Fortuna Düsseldorf Freiburg v Greuther Fürth Augsburg v Bayern München Eintracht Fran... v Werder Bremen Borussia M'gla... v Mainz 05 Hannover 96 v Bayer Leverkusen
Croatia	Lokomotiva v Cibalia Zagreb v Istra 1961 Hajduk Split v Inter Zaprešić Zadar v Split Rijeka v Slaven Koprnivica Osijek v Dinamo Zagreb
Serbia	Hajduk Kula v Jagodina Donji Srem v OFK Beograd BSK Borča v Partizan Spartak Subotica v Sloboda Užice Smederevo v Vojvodina Crvena Zvezda v Javor Ivanjica Radnički 1923 ... v Rad Beograd Radnički Niš v Novi Pazar
English Championship	Blackburn Rovers v Cardiff City Derby County v Leeds United Huddersfield Town v Bolton Wanderers Leicester City v Barnsley Peterborough U... v Middlesbrough Watford v Hull City Nottingham Forest v Burnley Sheffield Wedn... v Bristol City Charlton Athletic v Brighton & Hov... Crystal Palace v Blackpool Ipswich Town v Millwall
English League One	Carlisle United v Sheffield United Tranmere Rovers v Portsmouth Colchester United v Oldham Athletic Swindon Town v Doncaster Rovers Preston North End v Crewe Alexandra Scunthorpe United v AFC Bournemouth Hartlepool United v Stevenage Crawley Town v Shrewsbury Town Bury v Leyton Orient Coventry City v Walsall Brentford v Milton Keynes Dons
English League Two	Northampton Town v Cheltenham Town Port Vale v Chesterfield Rochdale v Exeter City Plymouth Argyle v York City Fleetwood Town v Southend United Bradford City v Torquay United Bristol Rovers v Dagenham & Red... Oxford United v Aldershot Town Wycombe Wanderers v Morecambe Rotherham United v Gillingham Barnet v AFC Wimbledon Burton Albion v Accrington Stanley
Scotland	Kilmarnock v Celtic Heart of Midlo... v Aberdeen Inverness CT v Hibernian Motherwell v Ross County St. Mirren v St. Johnstone Dundee v Dundee United
Greece	Kerkyra v PAS Giannina PAOK v Levadiakos Atromitos v OFI Platanias v Veria Xanthi v Panionios Asteras Tripolis v Aris Panathinaikos v Olympiakos Piraeus Panthrakikos v AEK Athens
Turkey	Beşiktaş v Eskişehirspor Elazığspor v Mersin İdmanyurdu Kasımpaşa v Gençlerbirliği Gaziantepspor v Karabükspor Sivasspor v Galatasaray Bursaspor v Orduspor Trabzonspor v Kayserispor Akhisar Beledi... v Antalyas



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